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1200 Salisbury Road • Mocksville, NC 27028

336.751.5921 • Fax 336.751.9013

Davie County Schools Names Two New Assistant Principals

MOCKSVILLE, N.C., June 2, 2026 - Davie County Schools has announced two additions to its leadership team for the upcoming academic year.

Joseph Davis has been named the new assistant principal at William R. Davie Elementary, and Katherine Shepherd has been appointed assistant principal at Davie County High School. Both administrators graduated in May 2026 with master's degrees in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Davis and Shepherd were selected as North Carolina Teaching Fellows through the Principal Preparation for Excellence and Equity in Rural Schools (PPEERS) program at UNCG, a highly competitive cohort system focused on instructionally driven leadership within North Carolina public school systems. As part of the program, both completed a full-time, yearlong internship in administration with Davie County Schools.



Joseph Davis completed his administrative internship during the 2025-2026 school year at Cooleemee Elementary School. There he collaborated with the leadership team to manage daily school operations, evaluate and improve student safety protocols, and facilitate instructional alignment. During his internship, Davis directed weekly instructional walkthroughs, supported professional learning teams, coordinated community engagement events and orchestrated Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) initiatives.

Prior to his administrative role, Davis served as a science teacher at Davie County Early College High School for five years, where he was named the 2025 Teacher of the Year. During his tenure, he created science curriculum at multiple levels, served as testing coordinator, facilitated student summer leadership camps, and advised the yearbook staff. Prior to that, he was a middle school teacher in Davidson County, and was special programs coordinator at Cognition Davie, where he designed and led STEM-based programs for PreK through middle school.

"I am honored to serve as the assistant principal of William R. Davie Elementary School, a place that holds a special place in my heart as a former student," said Davis. "I am passionate about building strong relationships with students, staff, and families to better understand each individual and their unique talents and attributes."

Davis holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences with a minor in business from Liberty University, where he also earned his Master of Arts in Teaching in secondary education.



Katherine Shepherd assumes her administrative role at Davie County High School, bringing 12 years of professional experience in education. During the 2025-2026 school year, she served as the yearlong principal intern at William Ellis Middle School where she gained extensive leadership experience in school operations and instructional support. In this role, she assisted with master scheduling, co-led the school's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework, managed restorative discipline practices, and provided instructional coaching to teachers and long-term substitutes through evidence-based feedback, modeling, and structured follow-up. She also played an instrumental role in fostering a positive school culture by leading and supporting initiatives such as the Ron Clark House System.

Shepherd started her education career as a teacher at Cooleemee Elementary, where she was named Teacher of the Year in 2021. She led the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and MTSS data committees, monitoring student progress and facilitating instructional alignment across grade-level teams. Additionally, she has served as a certified tutor and camp instructor for the Davie YMCA, and led Kinder Camp programs for eight years in Davie County Schools.

"I'm excited to continue building relationships with students, staff, and families at Davie County High School and to support the great things already happening there," said Shepherd. "I'm passionate about creating a positive school culture where students feel supported, connected, and encouraged to grow."

Shepherd earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Appalachian State University before completing her advanced administrative degree at UNC-Greensboro.

Both Davis and Shepherd begin their duties on July 1, 2026.