

Knob Noster Public Schools Selects Jessica Stewart as New Whiteman Elementary Principal



Knob Noster Public Schools has selected Mrs. Jessica Stewart to serve as Whiteman Elementary Principal for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mrs. Stewart graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 2009 from Lincoln University, a Master's Degree in School Administration in 2011 from Missouri State University, and is currently completing a Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Mrs. Stewart has served as an Elementary Assistant Principal in the Waynesville School District for the past two years, following six years of service as an elementary teacher in that district. Mrs. Stewart graduated with the honors of Magna Cum Laude and Summa Cum Laude in her undergraduate and graduate studies, respectively.

As a military spouse, Mrs. Stewart brings an authentic perspective to the Principal position at Whiteman Elementary, a building serving nearly 100% military-connected students and families. Along with her experience serving as a teacher and administrator in the Waynesville School District (Missouri's only other heavily-military-impacted district in Missouri), Mrs. Stewart understands the challenges and opportunities that exist for military-connected students. As a result of both her personal and professional life experiences, Mrs. Stewart is passionate about rallying the entire educational community around the diverse and unique needs of military-connected students. She is committed to providing not only excellent educational opportunities for students, but is also dedicated to ensuring comprehensive wraparound services are in place to support students, which is even more critical in heavily-impacted schools.

Educationally, Mrs. Stewart brings a wealth of experience in curriculum design and instructional leadership to serve the faculty and students of Whiteman Elementary. She offers extensive participative leadership skills through her experiences with the Professional Learning Communities school improvement process. She is well-versed in both Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) strategies in the elementary setting. She is also passionate about character education and patriotism, which is evidenced through her experience with the Leader in Me program. Altogether,

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the comprehensive mindset and skillset offered by Mrs. Stewart aligns congruently across many of the current priorities, programs, and initiatives of Knob Noster Public Schools, which made her an ideal candidate for the position.

Mrs. Stewart plans to relocate to the Knob Noster/Whiteman Air Force Base community with her Second Grade daughter, Hailey, her Kindergarten son, Garrison, and her husband, Staff Sergeant Roy Stewart, who serves as a recruiter for the United States Marine Corps.

When asked about the opportunity to serve as Principal of Whiteman Elementary, Mrs. Stewart stated: “It is with a great sense of excitement and anticipation that I join the Whiteman Elementary Team to help begin the next chapter of learning for our students. I believe a wonderful opportunity exists to achieve excellence for all students in Whiteman Elementary, and I look forward to uniting our team around quality, continuous improvement in all areas of our program. I am anxious to meet the students, faculty, and parents of Whiteman Elementary as well as those who serve our country at Whiteman Air Force Base!”

A staff meet and greet was held at Whiteman Elementary during the Professional Development Day on April 17. Details on a student and community meet and greet will be communicated in the near future.