

# New year, new administrators



Photos by Debbie Hightower

Students, parents and staff members had a chance to meet new Braxton Craven Principal David Cross at a reception held Monday in the school cafeteria. Pictured here, Kayden Lemly and her dad, Scott Lemly, look forward to the start of the school year.

## Braxton Craven Middle welcomes new principals

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — Students, parents and staff greeted new administrators at a reception held Monday in the Braxton Craven School cafeteria.

Principal David Cross was eager to make connections and lay the groundwork for the upcoming school year.

Cross himself is a product of the Randolph County Schools system, having

graduated from Southwestern Randolph High School in 2002. He earned his bachelor's degree in Communication in 2006; his master's in Administration and Supervision in 2001 and Ed.S. in Educational Leadership in 2012, both from Liberty University.

Cross is currently pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership at Liberty.

He comes to Braxton Craven with nine years of experience in the field of education. At Randleman Middle School he served in various roles including math teacher, student advocate, AVID elective teacher and as a softball,

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# PRINCIPALS

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basketball and volleyball coach. Most recently, he served as assistant principal at Randleman Middle School for two years and a year at Eastern Randolph High School.

"I've had a very warm reception here," he said. "You can tell that this is a great place for staff to work and kids to learn. I'm excited about the excellent work that has gone on here and I just want to piggyback on that. I feel really blessed to be here. I look forward to working with the students, staff, parents and community members that make Braxton Craven such a wonderful place to be."

Cross replaces Brian Hodgin, principal since 2015, who has moved on to an assignment as principal of Archdale-Trinity Middle School.

"I think it's a good idea for the students to get the chance to meet Mr. Cross before the school year begins," said Tiffany Ellis, mother of Chloe Ellis, at the reception.

Assistant Principal Justin Pugh most recently divided his time as assistant principal of Franklinville and Level Cross elementary schools. During the 2017-2018 school year,

he will serve as assistant principal of Braxton Craven School and New Market Elementary School.

Pugh received his B.S. in Elementary Education from UNC-G and his master's degree in Executive Leadership from Gardner-Webb University.

His extensive experience in the field of education includes a stint as teacher at Trinity Elementary School from 2011-2016 and at Liberty Elementary School (2010-2011).

Pugh hopes Braxton Craven students are as excited as he is about moving up to a middle school with only one grade level.

"I'm excited to get the opportunity to work with Mr. Cross and be exposed to the middle school setting," said Pugh. "I think it's such a good idea for the students to have this single-grade type of transition to middle school."

Middle school open houses will be held Wednesday, Aug. 23. Times are from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for Braxton Craven and from 4 to 6 p.m. at Archdale-Trinity Middle School.

First day of classes for students is Monday, Aug. 28.

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