



Hello DTS families!

Thanks to you all for such a warm welcome to the state, to the district, and to our school. I'm so excited to kick off the new school year together!

Since I've arrived, there have been many questions from both parents and students. These questions range from inquiries about my decision-making style to my favorite snack and what types of books I like to read. I've been collecting the more popular questions and would like to answer some here in my first publication so you can get to know me better. If you have additional questions, please stop by my office or send me a message anytime. I look forward to getting to know each of you!



About My Family

I grew up in Denison, Iowa, and am one of five children. My parents have lived in Des Moines for the last 20 years.

My son is 25 years old and received his undergraduate degree in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in 2012 and his master's degree in public health in 2014 from the University of Illinois-Chicago. He currently works in Chicago.

My daughter is 22 years old and graduated with a degree in English education from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, a few weeks ago. She has been hired to teach high school English and coach speech and theater at Fairmont High School in Fairmont, MN.

I married my high school sweetheart 2 ½ years ago.

My Educational Experience

I earned my bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. I have a master's degree and an administrative degree from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. My work experiences in the field of education include:

- 7th grade social studies in Worthington, MN; 1 year
- 5th, 6th, and 8th grade English and social studies in Fairfax, MN; 13 years
- Instructional Support Team Member--Minnesota Department of Education, Roseville, MN; 1 year
- High School Principal, Morgan, MN; 8 years
- Elementary School Principal, Redwood Falls, MN; 6 years

What I'm Looking Forward To

I'm very excited to get to know the children and families at the Downtown School and I'm ready to learn all I can from this school's amazing staff! I'm also eager to discover how the students become so comfortable sharing their learning with others.

Things I Love

- Collaboration – I like to talk with others and take time to think things through when I have important decisions to make
- Cooking
- Singing
- Dancing
- String cheese, almonds, and coffee
- Reading – The book Stellaluna by Janell Cannon because it is a great story about making and learning from new friends
- Learning and being a part of other's learning