

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ashley Holt
830-221-2621

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Comal ISD board approves administrative changes

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees approved several administrative positions at the regular March board meeting.

Freiheit Elementary School assistant principal Marisa Wulfsberg was named principal of the school and replaces Betsy Nash who is taking the head position at Clear Spring Elementary in August.

“I am honored to be named the next principal of Freiheit Elementary,” said Wulfsberg. “Our students are committed to learning and strive hard each day to reach the goals we have set in place for them.”

Wulfsberg was hired on as the assistant principal at FES at the beginning of the school year after she served as an assistant principal for two years at a previous elementary school. Wulfsberg said FES is the best school for her to start her career as a principal.

“Betsy Nash has built a strong community at Freiheit in the three years it has been open,” she said. “We share a common philosophy in regards to increasing student achievement and setting high expectations. The staff and community share this common goal as well and portray it each day to our students.”

Wulfsberg began her educational career as a second grade teacher in San Antonio in 1989 after graduating from the University of Texas at San Antonio with her bachelor’s in 1988. She went on to earn her master’s from UTSA in 1992.

“It is important to continue to put children first and help our student develop into lifelong learners,” said Wulfsberg. “I want to continue developing strong relationships with our students and their families because that is where learning begins. I also look forward to working with our teachers in continuing to integrate the most current technology available and differentiate instruction in order to meet all student needs.”

Two new assistant principals were named for Canyon High School to replace current assistant principals Alan Reaves, Allen Pooley and Donna Mitchell. Reaves and Pooley are moving to Rahe Bulverde Elementary and Clear Spring Elementary, respectively, to serve as assistant principals starting in the 2010-11 school year.

Mitchell, who is in her twelfth year with Comal ISD, has decided to return to teaching at CHS for personal reasons.

“I miss working directly with students,” said Mitchell. “They are the reason I fell in love with teaching, and I’m looking forward to going back into the classroom.”

Mitchell is also a fairly new mom of a nearly one-year old son and said she also wants more time to spend with him and her husband.

“I’m having such a great time with my family, and it’s important for me to have more time with them,” she said. “I think this is going to be a good move for me.”

Mitchell has served as an assistant principal at CHS for five years and was teaching Algebra, Pre-Calculus and Geometry classes for seven years prior to being an administrator. Mitchell graduated from Texas State University in 1998 with her bachelor’s before earning her master’s from there in 2004.

“I have enjoyed working at CHS as an administrator because of the fine teachers, counselors, and staff at CHS,” said Mitchell. “We are a family and helping teachers help students is the best part. I feel that the new assistant

principals will do a great job because they have the best interest of students at heart and will work with teachers to make students successful.”

Comal ISD’s current instructional coordinator for science Aryn Standeford will take Mitchell’s place as the Academic Dean for CHS. Each high school will have an assistant principal/Academic Dean who will provide support and guidance to teachers in handling daily challenges of instruction and implementation of curriculum, work with the Curriculum and Instruction Department in organizing and coordinating continuity and articulation of the high school instructional program, and serve as a resource to campus teachers in the area of effective teaching and learning.

“I am very excited about the opportunity to become part of Canyon High,” said Standeford. “It will be great to be around students again and to work with teachers to develop a community of professional learners.”

Standeford joined Comal ISD in July 2007. She began her educational career in 2002 after graduating from Texas State University with her bachelor’s in 2001, and she is currently working on her master’s.

“CHS is a growing school that has and is undergoing tremendous change,” Standeford said. “With change come opportunities and challenges for all members of the school community. I know I will gain a great wealth of knowledge from being at CHS during this time. CHS is a great school, and I couldn't have asked for a better place to begin my administrative career.”

Mark DeLeon, who served as an assistant principal at Spring Branch Middle School from 2008-2009, has also been hired on as another assistant principal at CHS. He is currently serving as an assistant principal at a middle school in San Marcos ISD.

DeLeon received his bachelor’s from Wayland Baptist University in San Antonio and his master’s from Texas State University. DeLeon began teaching in North East ISD in 2004. Prior to his stint as an educator, DeLeon served as a sergeant in the Houston Baptist University police department, as a crime

prevention specialist at Rice University, a DARE coordinator for several Texas police departments and school districts and as the program director for the Center for Safe Communities and Schools at Texas State University.

“Both Aryn and Mark will bring a variety of great experience to Canyon High School that will help us to continue to provide our students with the best learning environment possible,” said CHS principal Brad Brown. “We are extremely fortunate to have these two individuals join our administrative team.”

Smithson Valley High School’s current assistant principal Chris Smith will serve as the interim principal for the remainder of the school year in place of current principal Chris Trotter who has accepted an assistant superintendent’s position in Tomball ISD in Tomball, Texas. Trotter has served as the principal at SVHS for five years. Smith will start the 2010-11 school year as principal at Spring Branch Middle School.

Other administrative changes are taking place at Canyon Lake and Memorial high schools. Current MHS principal Mark Kershner will move to CLHS as an assistant principal later in March. Kershner joined the Comal ISD team in August 2006. He graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona in 1986 with his bachelor’s, and he earned his master’s from Texas A&M University in Kingsville in 1993.

“I am so excited to serve at CLHS because of the opportunity to be a part of a wonderful faculty and staff whose primary focus is to ensure students are becoming life-long learners and productive citizens,” said Kershner. “I am looking forward to getting to know the students, parents, and teachers of the CLHS learning community and offering my support to all of them.”

Kershner is replacing Carolyn Pittman at CLHS who is joining the curriculum and instruction team to help part-time with the district’s Memorial Early College High School that will open in August for the first time.

Comal ISD's current coordinator of advanced academics and fine arts Dr. Dolly Adams will take Kershner's place as principal of the Memorial Early College High School.

"I am so excited to have the opportunity to be named the principal of Memorial Early College High School," said Adams. "I have been on the design team for the Early College High School (ECHS) concept/grant for over a year now and have grown with the process in knowledge and enthusiasm. The philosophy behind developing an ECHS is one that I have passionately pursued for the thirty years that I have been an educator, which is to inspire, empower and motivate students so that every student will be successful and achieve high levels of excellence."

Adams came on board with Comal ISD in July 2007. She began her teaching career in 1980 after earning her bachelor's from California State University in Bakersfield, CA. She received her master's from CSU in 1991 and her doctorate from Capella University in Minneapolis, MN in 2007. In addition to her K-12 experience, Adams has also served as a psychology instructor and counselor at two different junior colleges.

"As principal of Memorial ECHS, I hope to move this campus to recognition as the model for successful Early College High Schools, as well as the model for successful educational practices," she said. "As education policies ebb and flow, the one constant is the desire to provide appropriate educational opportunities for all students. Memorial ECHS's campus will exemplify this desire and make it a reality."