



Jefferson City Public Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jefferson City Public Schools Announces Capital City High School Staff Appointments

JEFFERSON CITY – Jefferson City Public Schools is pleased to announce the following administrative staffing appointments for Capital City High School, that will go into effect July 1, 2019.

“From my early days of being a classroom teacher, I quickly realized the necessity for leaders to capitalize on relationships and communication,” said **Gary Verslues, Director of Secondary Education**. “I have no doubt these individuals will bring just the right balance of these things, while also challenging one another to bring the greatest impact of teaching and learning across CCHS.”

“I’m looking forward to working with a team of quality leaders who share a vision for making Capital City High School something that our students, staff and community are proud to be a part of,” **Principal Ben Meldrum** said. “We will work hard and push each other to make the CCHS experience an outstanding experience for all those involved.”

Ben Meldrum, Principal

Mr. Meldrum has 18 years of experience in education, all with JCPS. Prior to becoming principal at Simonsen Ninth Grade Center, Meldrum was a Cooperative Career Education teacher at Nichols Career Center for 11 years and then Assistant Principal at Simonsen Ninth Grade Center for two years. His educational background includes receipt of a Bachelor’s Degree from Missouri State University, a Master’s Degree from the University of Central Missouri, and Specialist of Education in Superintendentcy from William Woods University. Meldrum will become the very first principal of Capital City High School in the fall of 2019.

Mike Shipp, Assistant Principal

Mr. Shipp has 26 total years of experience in education. Most recently, 11 of those years have been with JCPS and include the roles of science teacher at TJMS, head and assistant Baseball coach at JCHS, and Assistant Principal at Simonsen for the past five years. Prior to coming to JCPS, Shipp was an Assistant Principal at California High School. He received his Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education and Science at William Jewell University, a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Southwest Baptist University, and a Specialist in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

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The Jefferson City Public School District respectfully suggests that those attending school district events and open meetings refrain from wearing fragrances.

Jeff Jenewein, Assistant Principal

Dr. Jenewein has 17 years of experience in the education field. Prior to coming to JCHS, he has served as a PE teacher and head basketball coach at LaMont High School, administration department graduate assistant at Northern State University, PE teacher and head basketball coach at Richland High School, Athletic Director at Vienna High School, ISS teacher and head basketball coach at Vienna High School, health teacher and head basketball coach at West Plains High School, and health teacher and head basketball coach at Desoto High School. He has spent the past four years with JCPS as an Assistant Principal at Simonsen 9th Grade Center. Jenewein's professional educational experience includes receipt of a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from the University of Central Missouri, a Master's Degree in Administration from Northern State University, a Specialist in Superintendency from Missouri State University, and a Doctorate in Teaching and Learning from Missouri Baptist University.

Emily Vallandingham, Associate Principal of Curriculum & Instruction

Mrs. Vallandingham has 12 years of experience in education, 10 of them being with JCPS. She taught English for two years at Parkway Central Middle School. Since coming to JCPS, she has served as an English teacher, Department Chair, MU Fellows mentor, technology applications teacher, instructional coach, and Administrative Intern. She received her Bachelor's Degree in English Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a Master's Degree in Educational Technology from University of Central Missouri, and a Specialist in Administration from Arkansas State University. Emily will work with teachers and the instructional leadership team to continue to improve teaching and learning.

Tim Ritter, Counselor Director

Mr. Ritter has 10 years of experience in education with nine years at Simonsen 9th Grade Center as a school counselor. He spent one year in Columbia as an academic interventionist and assistant basketball coach at Oakland Jr. High School and as an assistant baseball coach at Rock Bridge High School. Ritter earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education from Westminster University, a Master's Degree in Counseling from Stephens College, and Specialist in Administration from Arkansas State University. Tim will be leading the counseling team at CCHS. He will work with the administrative team in developing the schedule and supporting student needs.

Please join us as we celebrate and welcome these **#DifferenceMakers** into their leadership roles with Capital City High School and Jefferson City Public Schools.

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