

Pleasanton Unified School District



PRESS RELEASE
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New Pleasanton Unified School District Administrators

Pleasanton, California— The Pleasanton Unified School District is proud to select from outstanding candidates for our staff and administrative positions. We are pleased to announce the following newly added members of the district's administrative leadership team.

Lydiksen Elementary School Principal

Mr. Jake Berg has been selected as the new Principal at Lydiksen Elementary School, replacing Ms. Mindy Bolar who was promoted to the Director of Curriculum position for Pleasanton Unified School District. Jake has currently been serving in the role of elementary school vice principal for Pleasanton Unified. He was also the Principal for the Elementary Summer School Program this year. Prior to becoming an administrator, Jake taught 4th grade at Lydiksen for nine years.

Jake received his Bachelor's Degree in Journalism/Communication from the University of Oregon and his Master's Degree in Education from National University.

Alisal Elementary School Principal

Ms. Karen Johnson has been selected as the new Principal at Alisal Elementary School. Karen comes to Pleasanton from the San Ramon Unified School District, where she served as Vice Principal at Stone Valley Middle School since 2012.

Prior to that, Karen was a teacher at both the elementary (grades 1, 3, and 4) and middle school levels. Karen has served as an elementary school literacy coordinator, intervention specialist, summer school administrator, and administrative teacher on special assignment. Karen brings a strong background in curriculum and professional development to her new position in Pleasanton.

Karen has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Master's Degree in Counseling and Psychology from the University of Santa Clara.

Elementary School Vice Principal

Ms. Janet Gates has been selected as the new Vice Principal serving at Hearst and Lydiksen Elementary Schools. (Janet replaces Jake Berg, who was named Lydiksen Principal.)

Janet currently teaches science at Harvest Park Middle School. She has been employed by PUSD since 2003, teaching Life Science, Health, Earth Science, and AVID.

Coordinator of Human Resources

Ms. Melinda Trammel has been selected for the new position of Coordinator of Human Resources. Melinda is currently in the position of Administrative Assistant for the Pleasanton Unified School District's Business Services Division.

Prior to coming to Pleasanton, Melinda worked for California State University East Bay, the City of East Palo Alto, and the East Palo Alto Police Department. Melinda has her Bachelor's Degree in Labor Relations from San Francisco State University

Coordinator of Communications and Community Engagement

Ms. Nicole Stewart has been selected for the new position of Coordinator of Communications and Community Engagement. Nicole currently serves as the Assessment and Technology Coordinator for PUSD. Prior to coming to our district, Nicole was the Communications Director and Public Information Officer for the Fremont Unified School District from 2007-2010. She also served in the role of Community Relations Coordinator for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services from 2004-2007.

Nicole received her Bachelor's Degree in Communications from The University of Toledo and her Master's Degree in Social Work in Administration from the University of Connecticut.

Assistant Director of Special Education

Ms. Colleen Palia has been selected for the position of Assistant Director of Special Education. Colleen comes to Pleasanton Unified from the San Leandro Unified School District, where she has been a Program Specialist in the Special Education Department. Colleen has also served as a Summer School Vice Principal and a special education teacher in San Leandro.

Colleen received her Master's Degree in Special Education and her Administrative Credential at Cal State University East Bay. She also has her Law Degree from Lincoln University School of Law in San Francisco

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