

PRESS RELEASE

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New Principals Selected to Lead Morningside and Riverview Elementary Schools

Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) is pleased to announce the hiring of two elementary school principals: Kimberly DeFries at Morningside and Luke Diekhans at Riverview.

Ms. DeFries has been selected to be the next Principal at Morningside Elementary beginning the 16 – 17 school year. Kimberly will follow Bill Salonen who is retiring and taking a new position with Great Falls Rescue Mission.

Kimberly DeFries is currently a K – 6 principal at Cascade Public Schools. She has worked in Cascade since 2014. Ms. DeFries served students in the GFPS starting in 1998. Some of her positions include teacher, student service specialist, science instructional coach and teacher on special assignment.

Ms. DeFries has 25 years of experience in education. She states “I have dedicated my career to helping students become successful.”

Mr. Diekhans will be the next principal at Riverview Elementary beginning the 16 -17 school year. Luke will follow Howard Corey who is retiring.

Luke Diekhans currently coordinates K – 6 Environmental Education and STEAM programs for GFPS. Luke has worked in the Great Falls Public Schools since in 1999. In addition to his current responsibilities he has been a classroom teacher, served on district science and technology committees, tutored students and coached different sports.

Mr. Diekhans states “I am devoted to nurturing student and teacher growth”

Both principals’ first day will be July 1, 2016,

Please contact Dave Crum if you would like to interview Assistant Superintendent K - 6 Ruth Uecker, Ms. Defries or Luke Diekhans.

Dave Crum