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# PRESS RELEASE

## **Delmar School District**

Delmar Superintendent, Mrs. Charity Phillips, would like to personally thank each member of the Wildcat family in all of their support as the new Delmar Administrative Team ventures into the upcoming school year.

Come meet all of the members of the Delmar School District Administrative Team at our Wildcat Meet and Greet on Monday, August 10 5:00 - 6:30 in our School Auditorium. Meet our principals Lisa Morris and Andy O'Neal; Assistant Principals Nick Reece and James Hesens; and our Chief Operations Officer Jan Steele.

Below are brief biographies of the Delmar School District's Administrative Team:

### **Mrs. Charity Phillips, Superintendent**

Having served as a Delmar School District Administrator for the past 15 years, Charity Phillips is honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the Superintendent of the Delmar School District. She began her teaching career at Delmar teaching middle and high school math ranging from Algebra to Calculus. She was active as the Faculty Advisor for Delmar's Chapter of the National Honor Society, High School Math Department Chair, and the Delmar School District's 1998 Teacher of the Year.

She was honored by the National School Board Association and the Delaware Lieutenant Governor's Model of Excellence Award for creating Delmar's first Parent Assessment Night. Administratively, Mrs. Phillips has served as Principal, Supervisor of Assessment, Director of Curriculum/Instruction, Assistant Superintendent (responsible for a variety of areas ranging from Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment to Facilities, Grant Writing/Management, Human Resources, and Safety/Security).

Outside of school, her hobbies range from antique treasure hunting to watching HGTV and traveling on jeep road trips. She is the mother of four boys, three of whom are proud Wildcat graduates. Finally, Mrs. Phillips bleeds orange and blue as one of our Wildcat nation's biggest fans.

### **Jeannette Steele, Chief Operations Officer**

Mrs. Steele has been a member of the Wildcat family since March of 2008. She has 39 years of experience in school finance, corporate accounting and banking. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Delaware State University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Wilmington University.

Mrs. Steele is responsible for managing and directing the daily financial operations of the district. She prepares the Annual Budget, the School Board monthly financial statements, handles all financial audits and attempts to maximize the use of all school revenue so our students can excel in the classroom. This past year Mrs. Steele was named the 2015 Outstanding Administrator by the Delaware Association of School Business Officers.

Mrs. Steele lives in Lewes, Delaware with her husband Donn and has 3 grown sons and 5 grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her family, the beach, reading and traveling with friends.

### **Middle School Principal Andy O'Neal**

Mr. O'Neal is a 1994 graduate of Laurel High School in Laurel, Delaware. After high school he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Delaware, a Masters of Education degree in Career and Technical Education from Wilmington University and Certification in School Administration also from Wilmington University.

Mr. O'Neal began his educational career as an Agriscience teacher in the Laurel School District. He also served as Dean of Students at Wicomico High School in Salisbury, Maryland. Most recently, Mr. O'Neal has been Assistant Principal at Delmar Middle School for the past two years before being named Principal this past April.

Mr. O'Neal currently lives in Bethel, Delaware with his wife Crystal and his three children. Isaac is a sophomore at Delmar High School, Samuel will be entering the 8th grade at Delmar Middle School and Paige will be a 4th grader at North Laurel Elementary. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family and attending sporting events.

### **Middle School Assistant Principal James Hesen**

Mr. Hesen earned his Bachelor's degree from Salisbury University in history and economics and followed up with a Master's degree in U.S History. For several years Mr. Hesen worked in Washington, DC, in the private sector as a project manager performing research and writing historical assessments. In 2008, he returned to Salisbury University and earned a Masters of Arts in Teaching in social studies education.

Mr. Hesen began teaching AP European History and U.S. History at Wicomico High School in Salisbury, Maryland, where he was also an assistant track and field coach. He also taught AP U.S. History and U.S. History at James M. Bennett High School. At JMB Mr. Hesen was the

district coordinator for Maryland History Day and also became an MSDE Service Learning Fellow. He also advised our school's Student Government Association and chaired the Delmarva Oral History Project, a Community Foundation grant to collect histories from the people of Delmarva. After earning his administrator credentials in 2014, he transferred to Salisbury Middle School as Dean of Students where he worked with school and student leaders to improve school climate and to reduce bullying and conduct referrals. Mr. Hesen is also a U.S. History instructor at Salisbury University and a veteran of the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Reserves. He is currently preparing for an educational leadership doctoral program at the University of Delaware.

Mr. Hesen and his wife, Jennifer live in Salisbury with their four children: Gage (14), Grace (10), Gavin (4), and Grant (3). In his spare time I enjoy golf, football, coaching, spending time with friends and family on the beach, and watching their kids grow up.

### **High School Principal Lisa Morris**

Mrs. Morris is a 1988 graduate of Parkside High School in Salisbury, MD. After high school she attended Salisbury University and received a Bachelor Degree in Mathematics (1992) and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration (1996).

Mrs. Morris began her career in education at Wicomico Middle School in Salisbury, Maryland as a math teacher and served as the MSPAP facilitator for 2 years. In 2004, Mrs. Morris moved to Delmar High School to become part of the Wildcat Family and teach math. For the past three year, she has served as an Assistant Principal at Delmar Middle and High School. Most recently she was named the Principal of Delmar High School in July.

Mrs. Morris currently lives in Parsonsburg, Maryland with her husband Tom and son Cody. She enjoys spending time watching her son play baseball and relaxing at the beach with family and friends.

### **High School Assistant Principal Nick Reece**

Mr. Reece was born and raised in North Carolina. He traveled to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia where he received a Bachelor of Science and played club basketball for four years. Mr. Reece moved to Charleston, South Carolina and began his Masters in Teaching coursework at the Citadel.

He started his professional career by teaching middle school science in 2005. Mr. Reece taught middle school science, coached varsity swimming, coached varsity and JV basketball from 2005 - 2014 in Charleston, SC. In 2013, he received his Masters in Secondary Leadership and Administration from Charleston Southern University. Mr. Reece was an assistant administrator at his middle school in South Carolina for the 2013-2014.

His wife is from Milford, DE where they moved with their two children, Spencer (3) and Anna (1), in 2014. He taught middle school science and coached varsity swimming at Sussex Academy Charter School before getting hired as the high school assistant principal at Delmar High School.

Mr. Reece spends extra time with his family and loves playing basketball, swimming, tennis, golf and any other sport or exercise activity.

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