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Madison, IN: District announces new administrative assignments and teachers for the 2022-2023 school year.

The new school year is always exciting for students but will be especially so with several new faces in new places throughout the district. “The team had done an excellent job with filling a number of teaching positions prior to my arrival,” shared Dr. Teresa Brown. “I am pleased to announce a few more changes within the district that will better align internal resources leading to student success. We are committed to ensuring that the best possible person is in the correct seat on the bus in order to continue to move our district forward in a progressive manner.”

#### **McKay announced as Director of Programs**

Mrs. Tara McKay will move from Anderson Elementary Principal to take over responsibilities as the district’s Director of Programs. In this position, Mrs. McKay will oversee the daily operations of services, programs, curriculum, and oversight that wraps around Special Education.

Prior to taking the principal position at Anderson in March 2020, McKay served in a similar capacity for two years as Assistant Director of Special Services for the district. When hired at Anderson, McKay shared “My true passion as an educator has always been supporting students in their educational journey.” As Director of Programs, she will be in a unique position to further develop an outstanding staff team who will continue to collaborate with principals, teachers, and parents in all buildings to identify needs on an individual basis around Special Education services, screenings, academic interventions, and behavioral interventions.

McKay’s name may be most familiar from the outstanding work with our early childhood program and the launch of preschool locations in each building in the district. Her early work to secure funding, implement inclusion in general education preschool classes, and facilitate the On My Way PreK voucher funding stream for families in our community to have access to early childhood education has been invaluable and the program continues to grow year to year.

McKay began her career at Madison as an elementary teacher in 2001. During her time in the classroom, she taught Preschool, Kindergarten, 2nd, and 3rd grades where she assisted with the integration of technology into the classroom and helped to develop digital curriculum. “As a graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, I am extremely passionate about the education that we provide to students in this district,” shared McKay. “I have been blessed to work in various capacities within the district over the past twenty years, and I look forward to bringing my vast experience to my new role.”

McKay holds a B.S. in Education from Indiana University Southeast with a focus in elementary education and endorsements in Kindergarten and Language Arts. She has an M.S. in Education from Walden University with a focus in elementary education and specialization in Literacy and an additional 30 hours in early childhood, special education, elementary, and literacy education. She holds a Principal/Building Level Administrators license from Indiana Wesleyan in P-12 Administration. Mrs. McKay resides in Madison with her husband Ben and their daughters Morgan and Aubree.

“We are very excited about this move with Tara,” shared Brown. “While she did an excellent job as a building administrator, she now brings that expanded experience to this role and is committed to comprehensive support of our SPED staff, students, and families.”

### **Hardwick named Anderson Elementary Principal**

Mrs. Kirstyn Hardwick, Anderson's assistant principal since 2020, will take over as the building principal and will continue her people-first focus on development. "We began together at Anderson and have worked to establish a very strong team of educators who work tirelessly each day to make sure that our students get our very best," shared McKay. "Mrs. Hardwick has great relationships with staff, students, and families and prioritizes individualized interactions. She has incredible instincts and will continue to be a great leader in the building but will also emerge as a great leader at the district level."

Prior to coming to Anderson Elementary, Hardwick was a professional development project manager with Solution Tree, a company specializing in educational publishing, events, and professional development. She was an elementary curriculum instructional coach with the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation, as well as, a 5th-grade teacher (Waldron Elementary School) and 6th-grade teacher (Clifty Creek Elementary) with a common career thread of commitment to building relationships that created an engaging learning environment for students and staff.

"I am so excited to be able to serve Anderson Elementary in a new capacity as principal," shared Hardwick. "Mrs. McKay and I have worked closely the last two years and I am ready to come together with staff and continue the great work we started! I look forward to seeing our families at Open House and getting the year started!"

"These are the things you want to see happen with young, talented staff," shared Brown. "Professional development will be a focus moving forward and to see young professionals who are committed to giving their best for our kids each day is a great thing. My goal is to always seek the best talent, align skills and strengths with the needs of the district, and work very hard to find the right fit for our staff so that they, as well as, our students thrive."

Hardwick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership/Urban Principalship from IUPUI. She resides in Columbus with her husband Josh and their blended family of kids - Jayden 18, Graham 13, Mayleigh 13, and Kilyn, 7.

### **New teachers hired for 2022-2023** *(as of July 28, 2022)*

MCS has an incredible number of new teachers in the 22-23 cohort. "We are very excited to meet our new teachers and will spend time with them on August 1 and 2, 2022 in extensive training to bring them onboard," shared Dr. Brown. As the school year kicks off, we will connect with our new staff and work on a piece to put faces with names in the fall edition of The District Correspondent.

#### **Anderson Elementary School**

Haley Swafford - 3rd-grade Teacher  
Cassie Poling- Kindergarten Teacher  
Natalie Bear - Kindergarten Teacher  
Emily Phillips - 4th-grade Teacher  
Jessie Zurat - 1st-grade Teacher

#### **Rykers' Ridge Elementary School**

Kayla Adkins - 1st-grade Teacher

#### **Madison Junior High School**

Brenda Galliher - Science Teacher  
Sarah Hale - Math Teacher

Amy Bauer - 5th-grade Teacher  
Patrick Maschino - 6th-grade Teacher

Madison Consolidated High School

Alexis Ricketts - English Language Arts Teacher  
Laura Ratcliff - Business Teacher  
Jeffery Curtis - Science Teacher  
Kelly Neal - Career & Technical Education Teacher

There are still a few openings available, if you or someone you know is interested, please [click here to see what is available](#).

**Previously announced changes:**

Mr. Trent Whaley - Principal, Lydia Middleton Elementary School  
Dr. Teresa Brown - Superintendent  
Mrs. Jackie Thurston - Assistant Principal, Madison Junior High School  
Mr. Patric Morrison - Madison Athletic Director

Former MCHS principal, Michael Gasaway, resigned his position effective July 25, 2022, to take the same position at Greenwood High School. We wish him the best of luck in his new position. This position has been posted and is a priority hire for the district with the goal of finding a candidate within the next few weeks. Mr. Ronnie Lawhead will serve as interim and oversee the daily operations in the building until the position is filled.