

News Release from Dripping Springs ISD



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DRIPPING SPRINGS ISD NAMES ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS

DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas—Two elementary principals were approved unanimously at the May 26 Dripping Springs ISD Board meeting: Kellie Raymond as the principal at Dripping Springs Elementary and Tom Payne as the principal at Rooster Springs Elementary.

Mrs. Raymond has been the assistant principal at Walnut Springs Elementary for six years after starting her career as an elementary teacher in both DSISD and Austin ISD, where she taught third grade and first grade, respectively. Mrs. Raymond earned both her bachelor's (Dance/Geography) and master's (Educational Administration) degrees from Texas State University.

Mr. Payne has been an assistant principal at Dripping Springs High School for the past four years after spending two years in a similar capacity at Canyon Ridge Middle School in Leander ISD. He started his career as a Social Studies teacher at both the middle and high school levels. Mr. Payne also spent five years in the United States Army. He earned his bachelor's degree in History from Texas A&M University and his master's degree in Educational Leadership from Texas State University. Mr. Payne currently is pursuing his doctorate in Educational Leadership.

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The hiring committee also made recommendations regarding assistant principal positions, which the administration will implement. Mandy Sargent, who currently is Coordinator for Learning and Innovation at the district level, will become the assistant principal at RSE. Dripping Springs Elementary Assistant Principal Jennifer Murray will assume the same position at Walnut Springs Elementary (as it is being vacated by Mrs. Raymond) and a new AP will be hired at DSE.

Before coming to DSISD in 2013, Mrs. Sargent spent two years as an Education Specialist at Region 13 following six years as an instructional strategist at Kyle Elementary in Hays CISD. She earned her bachelor's degree from Stephen F. Austin University (Interdisciplinary Studies) and her master's degree (Educational Leadership) from Texas State University.

Mrs. Murray has been the AP at Dripping Springs Elementary for three years after spending two years as an instructional facilitator for the district. She taught at all three DSISD elementary schools over a six-year period, as well as in Plano ISD and Austin ISD. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Texas State University and her master's degree in Educational Administration from Lamar University.

"In Dripping Springs ISD, we believe in recognizing the talent we have internally while also considering all qualified candidates for open positions," said Superintendent Bruce Gearing. "We are pleased that all of these individuals will have the opportunity to continue their strong commitment to our district while taking the next step in their careers.

"Our two new principals – Mrs. Raymond and Mr. Payne – have strong track records as relationship builders with both staff and families, and as instructional leaders."

While all of the newly appointed campus administrators will visit their new campuses during the last several days of the school year, their official new duties will begin July 1, 2015.

Current principals Diane Bernero (RSE) and Trish Hassell (DSE), as well as RSE Assistant Principal Amanda Frisby, previously announced their plans to leave the district at the end of the school year.

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