

# Getting to Know You!!

2012-2013  
New Teachers  
& Administrators

## Mark Gabrylczyk

New Snake River Superintendent Mark Gabrylczyk wants to continue the winning ways of the Snake River School District in all aspects of school life—academic, athletic, fine arts and agricultural programs. "This school is important to the community," Gabrylczyk said. "People work hard to facilitate a variety of programs. People care about kids," the superintendent said. "It's exciting to be part of it."

A change he is proposing is a strategic plan in the district. "The last strategic plan for the school district was made in 2004," the superintendent said. "It is critical to get input from all the stake holders—board members, staff, community members and students. With the changes the state has made, we must have a conversation about how we are going to work as a school district."



**Mark Gabrylczyk**  
Superintendent

"By using one-time money [for this upcoming school year], former superintendent Russell Hammond and Business Manager Chris Nelson have kept the district afloat financially," Gabrylczyk said. "It will be hard to plan and move forward. The focus is on the students, giving them opportunities they deserve," he said. "They need to experience what they need, to experience the big, wide world out there. A lot of good things are happening here," said Gabrylczyk. "It's exciting to see and be part of what's going on in the school district."

Gabrylczyk graduated from Blackfoot High School. He received his B.S. in special education and physical education from Idaho State University (ISU). His Masters is in education administration from ISU and he received an Education Specialist degree from the University of Idaho. He was principal of the Snake River Junior High School for two years and then principal of Ridge Crest Elementary in Blackfoot before working at NonPareil for four years. He worked there in the Food Service—Frozen Potato Division. Gabrylczyk and his wife, Laura, have four boys—Collin, Cameron, Christopher and Cy—ages twelve to three. Laura works as a school counselor in the Blackfoot School District.

## Dave Kerns



**Dave Kerns**  
Federal Programs Director

Dave Kerns, will serve as the District Federal Programs Director and Chief Turnaround Officer of School Improvement. He completed his Education Specialist degree at ISU in May of 2010. He also served as the Superintendent at Clark County School District for four years. His office will be located at Rockford Elementary.

"I hope to ensure that our Federal programs can give a leg up to our special populations. I hope to accomplish many things that will be good for our teachers and their students while following the lead of our Superintendent and the Board of Trustees. I would really like to be remembered for caring about the kids and their future.

"I would sincerely ask for support, but if there is ever a question about anything I do or our school practice I would ask that patrons or parents please come in and visit with me before drawing any conclusions about our school or any of us working to provide the best education possible for each student. Please continue to encourage each child to read and to seek out books that will not only give them enjoyment, but will help them stretch and challenge them a little."

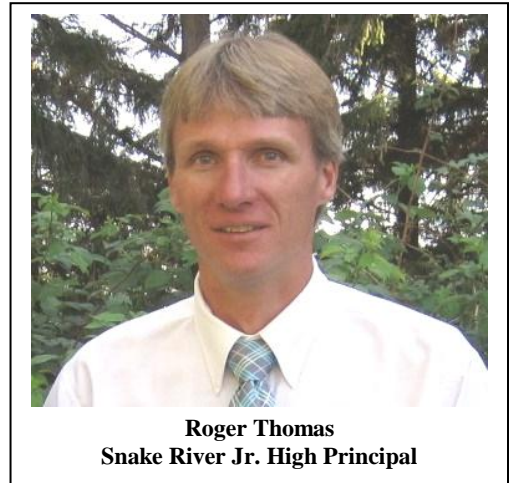
Dave enjoys working with computers and researching family history. He also enjoys reading Science Fiction as well as working on another advanced degree in Education at ISU. "I have been greatly blessed to be married to my wife Susan for 33 years. She is a retired Middle School teacher and enjoys being our youngest daughter's chauffeur. We have three girls, our oldest, Sarah, lives in Huntington Beach, California, our 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Tory, lives near our home in Idaho Falls, and our youngest, Katie, is Down's Syndrome and continues to stay with us and enjoys going to a special needs facility four times a week.

## Roger Thomas

Roger Thomas is Snake River Junior High School's new principal. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education in May of 1995 and his Masters of Education in Educational Administration in March 2009. He has a background of seventeen years teaching and coaching experience at American Falls High School.

Mr. Thomas wants to help improve the education of our students at SRJH and to help them to maximize their potentials. He plans to be a presence within the classrooms and to be involved with his faculty and staff in having ongoing discussions about curriculum and instruction. "I want them to remember how responsible, hardworking, caring, and dedicated that I am." Parents and patrons can help Roger by being an active participant in the education of their children.

Some of his special interests or hobbies include: "I love to hike, fish, backpack, snow and water ski, run, and spend time with my family. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 17 years. We have 7 children: Traegan 15, Cole 13, Derek 12, Kristen 10, Matthew 7, Cydney 5, and Micah 2 days.



## Courtney Purcell

My name is Courtney Purcell and I am a new third grade teacher at Riverside Elementary. I graduated from Brigham Young University-Idaho with a Bachelors degree this past April and this upcoming school year will be my first year of teaching.

Some goals that I have for myself is to do the very best that I can and have a great working relationships with my colleagues. I hope my students and associates will remember that I tried my very best and put forth my best effort. I want them to remember my love for teaching and the passion I have for it. Parents and patrons can help me do my job by being supportive and by communicating with me.

I love to read and do it whenever I have spare time. I love to try new activities and try to be creative and crafty although I am not very good at it. I am the middle child of three girls. I have been married to the love of my life for almost three years and we live in Idaho Falls.

## Angel Allen

My name is Angel Allen and I will be teaching 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Last year was my first year teaching second grade in Arco.

I want to be someone who contributes ideas and works well with colleagues. I also want to establish good communication with parents as well as being involved in the community. I hope that my students will remember me as being a fun, outgoing teacher who always took time to listen. I hope that my associates will remember me as having a positive attitude while being a hard worker.

I like to have students working in small groups so it is a great help when parents and patrons spend time in the classroom managing small groups, reading to students, or helping with individual students.

I like to do things outside like camping, hiking, and swimming. I also like to play (most) sports, but I really like volleyball and softball. I grew up in Howe, Idaho on a farm with a family of seven. I have lots of nephews and nieces, but I am not married and have no kids.



## J. B. Hoge

James (JB) Hoge is our new Ag Science and Technology/FFA Advisor. He graduated from Idaho State University in May and has been a farm manager for the past 17 years.

JB says it is his goal to continue a good program set by previous teachers. "With my hands on experience in farming, I will be able to teach the students skills that they can use in today's ever changing agriculture world." He wants his students and associates to remember him for making a good program "excellent." JB says the parents can help their children by supporting them in the projects they choose to do. The FFA alumni program helps with scholarships and other needed materials for the program to make it a success.

One of JB's special interests is training Border Collie cow dogs for competitions. He also likes to team rope and train horses. JB graduated from Snake River High School. He and his wife, Jocelyn, have two children. Maddalin will be a freshman at the High School and Max will be in the sixth grade. They live in the Pingree area.



**J. B. Hoge**  
Ag Science & Tech

## Jon Hawkes



**Jon Hawkes**  
High School Math Teacher

My name is Jon Hawkes and I am the new High School Mathematics teacher. I graduated from ISU in 2011 with my BS in Secondary Education, and have been working a variety of jobs, mostly in food service and child care. A goal I have is to really integrate technology into my teaching. These higher level mathematics topics are much more dynamic, and using technology to illustrate that is very important to me.

What do I hope my students and associates will most remember me for? ...My ability to listen to anyone's ideas or questions. I think listening is one of a teacher's most important tools. Parents, make sure your students do their homework! I am also always looking for new techniques or methods, please feel free to share them with me.

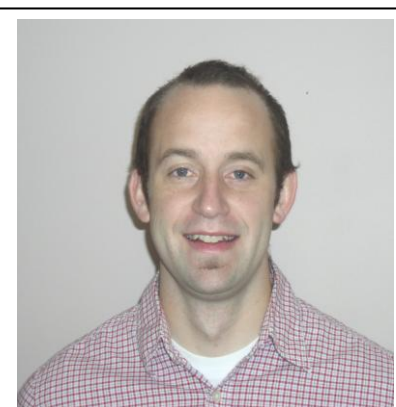
I love to read and watch movies, play video games, and cook. I also enjoy spending time outdoors and with family and friends. My family lived in Blackfoot most of my life, and a few years ago moved to the Twin Falls area. My father works for the state, and my mother is a paraprofessional in the Kimberly school district. I have a younger sister currently attending ISU, and a younger brother who is a sophomore at Kimberly High School.

## Derek Peterson

Derek Peterson joins the Snake River High School staff as an Art/Speech teacher. He is a graduate of BYU-Idaho and did his student teaching in theatre at Pocatello High School. We asked him if he had set any expectations or goals for himself or his program and he said, "To become passionate about teaching... teaching subjects that I am not accustomed to, but bringing a passion to those subjects and showcasing that passion."

Derek hopes his students and associates will remember him for being positive and outgoing. "Plus, I hope that they take to my teaching style!" Parents and the patrons can help him do his job by giving their students great positive reinforcement. "Everyone loves to hear positive reinforcement to help them further towards their goals."

Mr. Peterson enjoys lifting weights and watching movies. He says he would love to become a personal trainer during the summer times. He likes to act and just finished a big performance in Pocatello and was also in an independent film. Derek and his wife, Amy, live in Shelley and they have two beautiful daughters; Charlotte will be 5 in January and Juliette will be 2 in October. Amy works in an eye doctor's office at Center for Sight. She is from Virginia and they met, through a friend, in Idaho Falls. Derek was a student athlete at North Idaho College before going on an LDS mission and then to BYU-Idaho where he graduated in 2008 in Exercise Science. He returned to get his teacher's certification in 2009 and graduated in 2011.



**Derek Peterson**  
High School Art/Speech

## **Nathan Tracy**



**Nathan Tracy**  
High School Social Studies

Nate Tracy is our new Social Studies teacher at the high school. He will also serve as Snake River's Cross Country Coach. He has been out at Aberdeen for the last 5 years teaching American History, Eastern Geography, Math Skills, Typing, Study Skills, and Debate. While there he also served as the Varsity Women's Basketball coach, Cross Country Coach, J.V. Men's Basketball coach, Men's Soccer coach, and 8th grade volleyball coach. Nate completed his student teaching at Pleasant Hill High School in Pleasant Hill, Missouri and had the opportunity to coach basketball, baseball, and football.

Mr. Tracy says he loves history and is excited to be able to work with the students of Snake River in exploring our national heritage. He expects to push the students to think about and analyze history to better understand where we came from and where we are going as a nation. He would hope that the students of Snake River will remember him because they enjoyed his class and learned to look at the area of Social Studies in different lights. Nate I would like to help the students to become civically minded and proactive citizens of our nation. "Parents can best help me do my job by creating open lines of communication. If your students needs any help or needs to be challenged more in class please feel free to talk with me and together we can give the students the best education possible."

Nate says he loves sports, singing on occasion, hunting, and travelling. He and his "beautiful wife Camille" have three amazing children. Jensen who is almost 5 will start preschool and soccer this year, Maya who is 3 is working on her dance moves and trying to learn everything her sister is, and Brett who just turned 1 is already thinking about what position he will play in baseball in a few years. They live in Groveland and are excited to be a part of the Snake River Family.

## **Norman Bruderer**

Norman Bruderer will be working at the high school as a Special Education teacher. He completed his ABCTE studies in Special Education in 2011. He has five years experience working with persons with disabilities at the Development Workshop in Idaho Falls, then another two years of experience at the State Hospital. Norman obtained state certification to be a developmental specialist, to work with persons with disabilities, in 2008. He speaks Spanish (self-taught). He has also been a substitute teacher in the Snake River and Blackfoot school districts.

He has set several goals for himself: to obtain his masters degree in special education; to get an endorsement in History; and, to continue to become proficient in Spanish. "I understand it well enough to say what I need to say, but my goal is to keep learning and improve my grammar and pronunciation, so that eventually, nobody could tell by listening to me that I learned Spanish as a second language.

When asked what he hopes his students and associates will most remember him for, Mr. Bruderer said he wants to be remembered as being kind, caring and effective. "Good communication is the key—I welcome people's input and suggestions about their students' needs."

Norman formerly rode bulls and bucking horses in rodeos! He says he still enjoys anything to do with horses, although nowadays he likes the "tamer" variety. He loves coaching little-league baseball and is a scoutmaster. He and his wife have been married for 21 years. "I adopted my wife's son, and then we had a boy and a girl between us. My daughter graduated from high school this year and is at basic training in Missouri. My son graduated from high school in 2011, and is working construction; he will soon be leaving for Chicago, to be a missionary."



**Norman Bruderer,**  
HS Special Education Teacher



**Tiffanie Meza**  
**Jr. High/High School ESL**

## Tiffanie Meza

Tiffanie Meza will be working with the High School and Jr. High School ESL students this year. She is a recent graduate from BYU-Idaho and is endorsed in English and Teaching English as a Second Language. She also wants to get a math endorsement and is currently working with her students to help them improve their math skills while she is taking college courses in math.

Mrs. Meza hopes she will be remembered for her service; not only for helping with academics but also for helping with every other area of her student's and associates' lives. She wants to help them achieve whatever goals they may set. Tiffanie will make herself available whenever anyone needs her. She encourages parents to stay in contact and always check up on how their kids are doing.

Tiffanie and her husband, Stiben, who is from Peru, have two children: Michael (2) and Annabel (2 months). She enjoys reading, sports and relaxing.

## Jane Carter

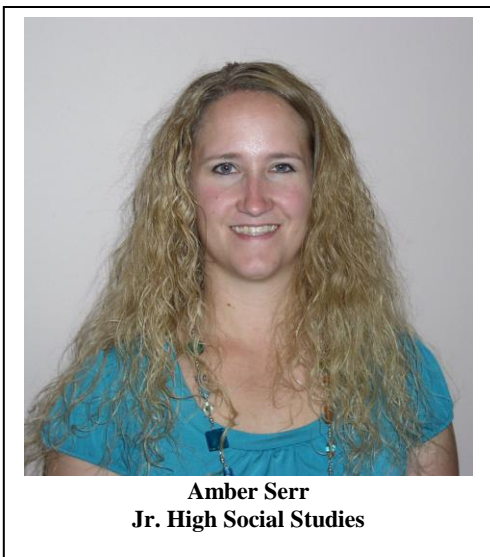
My name is Jane Carter and I will be teaching special education at the Snake River Jr. High. I graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Special Education and have been working for the Blackfoot School District for the last five years at Groveland Elementary.

I would like to encourage my students to take responsibility for their own education and success in life. I would like them to understand that their success in school is largely determined by their own attitude. I would hope that they would have no doubt that I cared about them as people and that I was willing to help them reach their goals. That I believed they were capable enough to meet the challenges that might come their way and that if they were willing to work, great things could happen! I think communication between parents and teachers is critical when it comes to helping students to reach their educational potential.

I love music! I also enjoy art in all its forms, painting, decorating, landscaping, etc. My husband, Ladd, and I live in Pingree. We have five sons and one daughter. We have a cow/calf operation and also background calves in our feedlot. We like recreational activities that involve the horses and outdoors, particularly pack trips, camping and fishing.



**Jane Carter**  
**Jr. High Special Ed**



**Amber Serr**  
**Jr. High Social Studies**

## Amber Serr

Amber Serr is Snake River Jr. High's new 7th Grade Social Studies teacher. She graduated from Idaho State University and has also worked for Ridley's Family Market for seven years. Amber wants to have a well-rounded course that involves the Common Core Standards and she wants to work with the English Department to see if they can have projects that work together.

"I hope the students will remember me as a positive teacher that cares about them and I hope the associates I work with remember a positive colleague that is willing to help in any way," Amber said. The best way parents and patrons can help her would be to support the school and support their students because she has an interest in making sure her students are able to succeed.

Mrs. Serr's hobbies include snow skiing, reading and spending time with her family. She and her husband have been married for four years. They both graduated from Snake River High School. They have two sons: 19 month old Kaden and 5 month old Bridger.