

New Teachers 2018-2019



Sierra May
3rd Grade Teacher

Sierra May

Sierra May grew up in McCammon, Idaho riding horses, camping, and raising 4-H animals. In 2008, she was the McCammon Rodeo Queen! Sierra is the oldest of five children and always enjoyed the leadership role that entailed. Her grandmother was a teacher and principal her entire childhood and she really influenced Sierra to teach in authentic, engaging, and meaningful ways. In high school, she met her future husband, but while he served in Chile for two years, she attended school at Brigham Young University. Upon returning from Chile, they were married exactly 8 weeks later and since then have gained three beautiful daughters. Throughout Sierra's years of teaching, she has taught in Utah, in the Pocatello District, Marsh Valley District, and finally she hopes to settle in with Snake River. With her various experiences in different systems, she has come to find a deep passion in technology integration, unit design with meaningful and transferable essential questions, and weaving the growth mindset into her every day teaching.



Jamie Smith
3rd Grade Teacher

Jamie Smith

Jamie Smith is the new part time teacher for 3rd grade at Riverside Elementary. She earned her Associates in the Professional Preschool Program while at Ricks College. Years later she continued her education earning her Bachelors in Elementary Education at Brigham University Idaho. She taught 2nd grade in 2014 for the district.

Her philosophy of education is that children are doers and learn through hands on experiences. As this environment is provided, she hopes to create and instill a desire for lifelong learning in the students she works with.

Jamie has been married for 14 years to Scott who is the director at the Bingham Crisis Center. They have two children, Madison in 7th grade and Taylor in 2nd grade. She loves camping, outdoors and spending time with her family.



Rochelle Taylor
2nd Grade Teacher

Rochelle Taylor

Rochelle Taylor will be teaching 2nd grade at Riverside Elementary. She has been teaching at Arco Elementary for the last 12 years, ten of those years were teaching amazing first graders. She also taught first and second grade combined classroom for one year and last year she left the regular classroom to become a special education teacher. Mrs. Taylor grew up in the Snake River Valley and she is so excited to come home after being away for 35 years. She has 5 children, two girls and three boys.

Mrs. Taylor hopes that students will remember her class most for her wanting to instill a love for learning and developing the desire to become a lifelong learner. She thinks parent support is crucial and welcomes parents to be a part of the learning process for their child. Open communication is a must between the teacher and the family.

Mrs. Taylor enjoys participating in a variety of spots. She also enjoys the outdoors, whether it is camping, hiking, running, or just watching the sunset. She enjoys singing, drawing and quilting.



Alisa O'Berry
4th Grade Teacher

Alisa O'Berry

Rockford Elementary welcomes Alisa O'Berry as a 4th Grade Teacher. Mrs. O'Berry attended ISU and Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She has taught 4th grade for 23 years in Idaho and Georgia. She has been married to Steven for 12 years and they have 3 children, 3 cats, 1 dog, 5 ducks, and 2 rabbits.

Mrs. O'Berry's main goal is to continue to educate all students and hold them to high expectations. She wants her students to remember her class as a place they loved to learn how to be a better person. She enjoys when a student tells her they love school after being in her class. She feels parents are vital to the growth and learning of their child. It is important to know that she will work with parents to ensure their child has a successful year.

Mrs. O'Berry loves to garden, read, and she is active in numerous church activities.



Raegan Coles
6th Grade Teacher

Raegan Coles

Raegan Coles is very excited to be teaching 6th grade Math and Science this coming fall. She says she will be filling some big shoes that Carol Adams has left for her. She also is very excited to give back to the community that helped shape who she is today.

As part of the staff at Snake River Middle School, Mrs. Coles hopes that she will become a source of love and support for your child. She hopes to create a classroom environment that is positive and encourages cooperation. She says that if there is anything she can do specifically to make this possible for your child, please let her know. She would like to have a similar impact on her students that her incredible teachers had on her.

Her and her husband, Tyler, enjoy exploring the Rocky Mountains on their snowmobiles, motorcycles and mountain bikes. They also enjoy spending time with their nieces and nephews.



Bryn Katseanes
Jr. High Counselor

Bryn Katseanes

Bryn Katseanes is the new counselor at Snake River Junior High School. She has mostly worked with high school students, so she is excited about the change in hormone levels. She graduated with her undergraduate degree and began to work as a travel agent and travelled the world. She decided that she wanted to work with kids, which led her to be a counselor. She loves her job, no matter what age!

Mrs. Katseanes and her husband bought his grandfather's farm off Hoff Road a year ago and now he is trying to make it as an organic farmer while she brings in the big bucks! They love to camp and hike and of course travel! They just had their first son this last April. They are excited about raising him in a new community and she is even more excited about working in it as well.

Mrs. Katseanes has a service dog named Allen who will be at work with her most the time. He helps her with her diabetes and alerting her for her blood sugar levels. He is amazing!



Robin Henicksman
2nd Grade Teacher

Robin Henicksman

Riverside Elementary welcomes Robin Henicksman as a 2nd grade teacher. She graduated in Elementary Education from Brigham Young University-Idaho.

Ms. Henicksman's goal as a teacher is to help her students know that they are able to learn a concept. We asked her what she hoped her students will most remember about her classroom. She said, "I want my students to remember that they are loved and that they can always learn something new." Patrons and parents can best help her do her job by helping their children to do their homework and work hard towards their goals.

Ms. Henicksman has three sisters, two older and one younger. She loves to travel to different destinations like Mexico and Alaska. She loves to go camping and fishing, watch movies, and loves to read. She also crochets and takes pictures.



Brittany Fuller
2nd Grade Teacher

Brittany Fuller

Brittany Fuller graduated from BYU-Idaho in Elementary Education and went to ASU for her graduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction. She also has Sheltered English Immersion and Literacy endorsements. She has taught first grade for six years and PreK for two years.

Mrs. Fuller believes that through the promotion of lifelong learning, she can empower students to become self-reliant, productive leaders in their communities. Her hope is that she can inspire and motivate her students to continue asking the questions that will influence lifelong learning.

When asked how parents and patrons can best help her do her job, she said, "First, spend time with your child daily. Read with them. Ask them about their day and what they are learning at school. Second, communicate any changes in your student's life with me. By understanding your child's environment, their likes and dislikes, and home life can greatly impact her ability to interpret your child's specific needs in the classroom. *"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."* ~ Dr. Seuss

When Mrs. Fuller is not teaching at school, she enjoys teaching her boys at home. She has taught them every skill she knows: canning, quilting, cooking, cleaning, etc. She also enjoys doing preparedness activities with her husband around the community. They all enjoy playing board games, reading, hiking, watching movies and cooking together.



Penelope Trujillo
Jr. High English Teacher

Penelope Trujillo

Penelope (Penny) Trujillo is from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has three adult daughters; two sons-in-law and is a proud grandmother of 14 grandchildren. She enjoys walking, music, researching, time with her grandchildren, and spending time with her mother. She is looking forward to living in Blackfoot. She hasn't experienced cold winters in a very long time, so wish her luck when winter comes!

Mrs. Trujillo loves teaching!! She has recently retired (July 1st.to be exact) from teaching 25 years in New Mexico. She is excited to begin her new adventure with the Snake River School District as an eighth grade Language Arts teacher. She can hardly wait to get to know the eighth graders! Her goal is to do her very best to prepare them for high school. When the school year ends and her students move on, her hope is that they will remember through hard work and perseverance they can reach their academic goals and being challenged is a good thing.

She looks forward to working collaboratively with her students' parents. She says, "As we work together we will be able to ensure that their children are reaching their academic goals."



Wayne Taylor
High School Special Ed

Wayne Taylor

J Wayne Taylor will be teaching Special Education at Snake River High School. He has a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University in American Studies with minors in Anthropology and Korean. He will be getting his teaching certificate through ABCTE. He has been substituting for the past 4-5 years and has especially enjoyed special education. He will be teaching the English portion.

Mr. Taylor hopes to be a successful teacher and help his students learn the skills they need to function as kind and happy adults after graduation. He wants to learn how to best serve the students so they can be successful in their future endeavors. He says that students should feel support but also be challenged to push beyond the comfort zone.

He hopes his students will feel that they learned a lot and had a positive experience. In special education, school can be frustrating and hard. He hopes that they will accomplish what needs to be done and feel good about their efforts. Mr. Taylor feels that parents need to be involved or at least aware of how their child is performing and working at school. He hopes that they will want to have an active role in education plans and goals.

Mr. Taylor is married to his wife, Joy, and they have four kids - Jonah (Ellee), Connor, Anna and Zach, all who have or are attending Snake River High School. Mr. Taylor enjoys movies, books, hiking, traveling and doing things with his family. They have tried to be involved in school and community activities and hope to continue to contribute. They are proud of our community and school.



Chad Porter

The District would like welcome Chad Porter as our new school counselor for grades 4-6 (Rockford Elementary and Snake River Middle School).

Chad Porter was born and raised in Southeast Idaho. Chad has over 18 years of experience in the social services. Chad has always had a passion for helping others. He has worked with children, teens, and adults in a variety of settings. Chad's previous work experiences include work at residential inpatient settings, outpatient settings (counseling agencies), developmental group homes, school districts, and a psychiatric hospital. Chad has also spent years as a medical social worker practicing in settings such as a medical hospital, in Home Health, and in Hospice.

Chad earned his Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Idaho State University in December of 2006 and his Master's degree in Clinical Social Work from Northwest Nazarene University in March of 2011 where he specialized in assessment and psychotherapy with individuals, children, and families. He is credentialed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Chad has been providing psychotherapy to individuals, children, and families for over 7 years.

Chad is married to Sara Porter (formerly, Sara Stevens) who works as a paraprofessional in the Special Education department of Snake River Junior High. Together, they live in Pingree, Idaho. His step-daughter attends Snake River High School and his step-son attends Snake River Middle School. Chad has two daughters, from a previous marriage, that live with him part of the time. Chad enjoys spending time with his family, spending time outdoors, camping, singing, and lifting weights.

When asked, 'Have you set any expectations or goals for yourself as a counselor at Snake River?' Chad stated, "I hope to be an integrated part of the team, caring for the emotional and educational needs of our students". We then asked, 'What do you hope your students will most remember you for?' and he responded, "I hope the students I work with remember me for being kind, friendly, understanding, and helpful".

Lastly, Chad was asked, 'How can the parents and patrons best help you do your job?' His response was: "Parents, patrons, and staff of Snake River can best help me do my job by communicating with me. It is important that we all communicate expectations and needs with each other in order to best serve the students of Snake River School District. I want others to feel heard and listened to".

Let's welcome Chad Porter to Snake River School District!



Jacob Smith

Jacob Smith grew up in Pleasant Grove, Utah, and graduated from Pleasant Grove High in 2010. He says it took him a while to figure out his major, and settled on elementary education with a math emphasis (minor). He will graduate from BYU-I in December. Mr. Smith learned Mandarin Chinese while on a two-year religious excursion. He plans to get a teaching endorsement for it once he finds a way to plan in the classes for that. He has been married for a little under four years and has a son who is almost three and a daughter who just passed her six month mark. Mr. Smith enjoys working with kids and having a job that is constantly changing.