



# GRASS LAKE SCHOOL

## District #36

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Dear Grass Lake Brave Families,

May 2023

It is with great honor and pride that I write this letter of introduction as the new Principal of Grass Lake School. I am thrilled to be a part of a school with such a rich history that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the students and school community. I can't wait to get started, and I look forward to getting to know our students, staff, and families on a more personal level soon!

If I am going to get to know you, I suppose I should tell you a little about me as well! First and foremost, I am a proud husband and father. My wife, Margaret, is a nurse at St. Alexius in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Margaret and I have two amazing children, Hunter who is 10 and Peyton who is 3. Hunter is in fourth grade and enjoys playing baseball, basketball, and football. Peyton is still a little too young for organized sports but she certainly has me wrapped around her finger already. As you will come to learn, my family is of the utmost importance to me. You will see that as principal, I consider all of our school community my extended family. Being a father has helped me lead in schools by not only abiding by all laws and regulations of a school district, but also with heart as I truly care about every one of our students' success and positively influencing that anyway I can. When I see our students doing well, I feel that personal pride while if I see them struggle, I am quick to jump in and be there with listening ears and an open heart and mind.

As for my professional background, I graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science. I received a Masters of Education from National Louis University and my Masters of School Leadership from Concordia University. I am currently enrolled as a doctoral student at Concordia University and in the process of writing my dissertation. I taught middle school social studies at Woodland Middle School for a number of years, and then moved into school leadership at nearby Emmons School in 2013 as Assistant Principal. I returned to Woodland in 2017 as the Principal of Elementary West. I had the opportunity to expand my leadership role by becoming the Principal for both Elementary West and Elementary East for the past 3 years. Over the last school year, I had the pleasure of leading my staff and students through a school consolidation combining West and East into one Woodland Elementary. This was a huge undertaking, and the successful transition was built on a foundation of trust and strong relationships among our school community.

**To Nurture and Empower Students to Explore, Achieve, and Excel!**

One thing you will need to know about me is how important your child, and in turn your family, is to me. My number one goal is always safety but a close second is building a strong partnership between school and home. In order to build that partnership, I understand that trust needs to be built and I look forward to beginning to earn your trust over the course of this upcoming school year.

I will “officially” begin on July 1, 2023, however you will begin to see me at school functions and events as early as tomorrow’s Dodgeball Tournament. Please feel free to introduce yourself and even your hopes as we continue building an even better school for your children. I am confident that under Dr. Newby’s leadership, we will continue to do great things at Grass Lake School and I cannot wait to begin this new journey and join everyone, every step of the way as we continue to “nurture and empower students to explore, achieve, and excel!”

I look forward to meeting everyone soon and especially cannot wait to begin my tenure as the Principal of Grass Lake School!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Wollberg