

Miles returns as Re-1J supt.

Written by Jes-c Brandt



Returning to his home town, Bret Miles is excited to have started as Holyoke School District's new superintendent and looks forward to summer planning and a great 2009-10 school year.

Miles began working in the office Wednesday, July 1, and is already busy meeting with principals Jennifer Kral and Susan Ortner, board members and many others.

No stranger to Holyoke, Miles plans to look to the community to find areas of strength and weakness in the school district. He has family in Holyoke, and both he and his wife Nancy are 1990 graduates of Holyoke High School. Additionally, Miles spent two years as a teacher at Holyoke Elementary School.

Miles has the perspective of a community member, teacher, parent and an administrator as he enters the district as superintendent, and he knows first hand the importance of community in a rural school such as Holyoke.

On the docket for the summer, Miles plans to begin his 'superintendent's entry plan.' The plan, he says, will consist of interviews and monthly reports. He intends to speak to school faculty and community members to get a feel for what people currently see and want to see in the school district. In his first year as superintendent, Miles noted he has a lot of looking and listening to do.

Also a high priority is the alternative school. As in other areas of the schools, Miles is trying to learn all that he can about the alternative school so he can make the best decisions. The

Miles returns as Re-1J supt.

Written by Jes-c Brandt

alternative school, he said, has some necessary construction work, as well as an instructor to be hired.

Following his goal of becoming well acquainted with the district, Miles has already begun to meet the school board members. He sat in on one board meeting already this summer, but he attended his first as superintendent this Tuesday, July 7.

In addition to speaking with board members, they are in the process of arranging a retreat so everyone can get to know one another and learn to work together. Every school, said Miles, has its own systems and its own way of working. He looks forward to learning Holyoke's ways and working with those he is joining.

Before taking the position as Re-1J superintendent, Miles was superintendent at Brush School district for six years. While there, he gained valuable experience in administration, but when he saw the chance to move back to Holyoke, he couldn't refuse. "It's home," said Miles, "and it's good to be back."

Near the beginning of his teaching career, Miles taught fourth grade in the 1998-99 and 99-00 school years at Holyoke. Many remember him and the role he played during that time, and look forward to seeing him take the reins as superintendent.

Before teaching in Holyoke, Miles taught in Denver for three years. In Brush, before becoming superintendent, he was the principal at Beaver Valley Elementary for a year. He also served as principal for preschool through grade 8 in Cheyenne Wells for one year.

While it's been a whirlwind of moving, unpacking and working, Miles and his family have already started to enjoy their time back in Holyoke. Miles' parents and his uncle live in Holyoke as well, so they have all been enjoying time spent with family. His children, Nathan, 12, and Dylan, 8, have been spending a lot of time on the farm with their grandfather Ron and great uncle Rick. It's good to be close to family, added Miles.

Before school starts in August, Miles noted he and his family will be enjoying the little summer

Miles returns as Re-1J supt.

Written by Jes-c Brandt

things. The boys have been hitting the pool, and the family has a camping trip planned.

Overall, Miles is prepared for a busy year, and very excited to work with people in the district and the community for a great school year.