

## Stumpf makes quick transition

Written by Chris Lee

---



Holyoke School District Re-1J hired Kyle Stumpf as the new elementary principal last week. Just two days after he was hired, Stumpf was in his office in Holyoke ready to get things moving.

Stumpf was born and raised in Merino. After high school, the opportunity to play football at the University of Wyoming presented itself so off he went to Laramie, Wyo. After a shoulder injury ended his football career, Stumpf stayed to complete his degree and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education in 1998, certified in kindergarten through seventh grade. He stayed in Laramie and taught special ed for one year.

Wanting to get back to Colorado and his home town, Stumpf accepted a teaching position in Fleming where he taught second grade for three years as well as coached high school football and basketball.

While teaching, he was also farming and ranching but decided to try farming full-time so he took a year off. After a couple of months away from the school and the kids he decided to go back to school and received his master's in curriculum and instruction.

After grad school he was hired as an elementary principal in Merino. For the last six years Stumpf has been in his hometown serving as principal and during that time obtained another master's degree, this time in administration.

Recently, Stumpf has done some work with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). He has been on two advisory panels participating in the accreditation process where he worked with the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Jones International in Denver teacher preparation programs.

Stumpf and his wife Christy were married five years ago. She has been a sixth grade and junior high teacher in Fleming for about 13 years. He has two step-daughters Timmi Keisel, seventh grade and Alli Keisel, fourth grade.

## Stumpf makes quick transition

Written by Chris Lee

---

Stumpf and his family live in Sterling and he will commute to Holyoke while his wife and girls commute to Fleming.

Stumpf's hobbies include camping with his family during the summer. In the past, farming and ranching took up much of his time as he also operated his own custom haying business. This past winter he sold most of his equipment to keep his focus on teaching. He continues to own a section of grass where he runs 25 head of Angus cattle.

Another hobby of his is riding Harley Davidson motorcycles. He said he just sold his bike but is looking into getting another one soon.

Stumpf had just moved into a brand new elementary school in Merino in January.

"I've got a lot of respect for Mr. (Bret) Miles," Stumpf said. "I've kept in touch with him over the years when he was in his previous district in Brush."

Stumpf asked Miles one day how things were going in his new position and according to Stumpf, Miles jokingly asked him if he would like to be the elementary principal in Holyoke. He responded by saying, "maybe so."

"I'm excited for the opportunity," Stumpf said. "Holyoke is a bigger school district than what I am used to. I've always had a lot of respect for what Holyoke does both academically and sports wise."

Stumpf said he would like to see what kind of funds he could raise through grants to some day possibly obtain some laptops and smart boards. He said school districts are educating kids that need to be ready for 21st century learning.

"I really have a passion for technology and putting technology in the hands of teachers," he said.

## **Stumpf makes quick transition**

Written by Chris Lee

---

Stumpf said he is excited to work with Supt. Miles and JR/SR High Principal Susan Ortner and so far everyone has been really friendly and open.

“It’s not bad to get a change every once in awhile,” he said.