

# CANYON COURIER

## Interim principal at West Jeff is familiar with the school

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It didn't take long for the interim principal at West Jefferson Middle School to get adjusted to the area.

That's because Kim Halingstad is already really involved in the community. She's been the assistant principal at West Jeff Middle for the last eight years, and she's had children go through Marshdale Elementary, West Jeff Middle and Conifer High.

When former principal David Schoenhals left West Jeff unexpectedly after one year at the school, Halingstad thought to herself: "All right, let's do it."

"Certainly, being an assistant principal you can see a lot of what's going on and have ideas about what could be done better," she said.

The interim principal, who hopes to ultimately continue in the permanent position, said it's easy for her to keep the ball rolling since she already knew the direction the school was headed. She's familiar with its mission and hopes to continue examining students' needs and helping adjust instruction to meet those needs.

In a letter to the West Jeff community earlier this year, community superintendent Dan Cohan shared many of these thoughts.

"She is highly regarded as an experienced educational leader with a high degree of professionalism and integrity. She is committed to collaboration, exercises sound decision making, and communicates thoughtfully and thoroughly," he wrote.

Halingstad grew up in Jefferson County and moved back after working for some time on the east coast. She began teaching at what used to be Wheat Ridge Middle School. She later moved into instructional coaching before landing in administration.

For Halingstad, there's just something special about middle schoolers. It was a hard time in her own life, and she's always wanted to make the pre-teen years better for others than it was for her.

"It's a tough age. But this age, every day is different... I'm just drawn to this age. It's fun," she said. "They're young adults, but they still have that childlike joyfulness."



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