

21 June 2009

Dear School Community,

My name is Joel Grim and I will be serving as the Principal of Pope Elementary School starting on July 19, 2009. I grew up in Ohio and served five years in the United States Air Force after high school. During my time in the Air Force, I received my Community College of the Air Force degree and a B.S. degree from Southern Illinois University. After separating I completed my teaching degree from Chapman College and taught first, second, and fifth grades. I also instructed Title One and accelerated students.

I received my M.A. in School Administration from Azusa Pacific University and served the Brandon Valley School District in South Dakota as an Assistant Principal, Principal, and Curriculum Director. While at Brandon, I graduated from the University of Sioux Falls with my Educational Specialist degree in School Administration. The past five years, I have worked as the Principal of the South Dakota School for the Deaf.

During my 18 year career, I have been privileged to work with tremendous staff, administration and especially students. I so much love the smiles and curiosity of elementary kiddos! While visiting the base last week, I heard numerous positives about the Pope School community. It was a privilege to meet Dr. Bob Kirkpatrick and learn firsthand about the school. I am looking forward to meeting everyone and collaborating to continue making the school an even better place. My number one goal is to provide a safe learning environment while improving student achievement.

My wife of 19 years is a Speech/ Language Pathologist and former elementary teacher. We have a high school, middle school, and an elementary student living in our house. They are great kids and involved in a plethora of extracurricular activities. I enjoy pheasant hunting, golfing, reading, and participating in community organizations.

I look forward to meeting everyone on the first day of school. Please call the office at (910) 907-0209 with any questions.

Kids First,

Joel L. Grim