

My name is Mike Ericksen and I will be the new principal at Shelley Elementary next year! I feel that I have LARGE shoes to fill coming in after Mrs. Crandall. She has done a great job with the students, faculty and patrons of Shelley.

That being said, I want to share with you a little about my life so far. I am from Mt. Pleasant, a smaller town in central Utah. Growing up there taught me many things about life -- responsibility, patience, love for nature and a love for family. The majority of my family has been or is currently in education. That includes my grandfather who was a music educator at Snow College. My dad, John, was a teacher at North Sanpete High School and ended his 30 plus year educational career as the principal there. My brother and sister are teachers in the North Sanpete School District.

In high school I was a very active student! I was the student body president and played basketball, football, tennis and track all four years there. I enjoyed being outdoors with my family and my favorite time of the year was the deer hunt. It was a time for us to get together and grow our family traditions, regardless of a successful hunting outcome. When I graduated from high school I was able to spend two years in Australia in service to my church. I came back and enrolled at Snow College where I was able to meet my wife, Tiffani. We were married within 6 months of my return to Utah! Tiffani has been a

source of support and has helped me develop my talents now for the last 21 years! She currently teaches 4th grade at Windsor Elementary in Orem.

My life's journey took us to UVSC (now UVU) where I worked at Wal-Mart to put us through school. I graduated from UVSC and got into BYU where I decided that I would continue our family's career choice of teaching. I really enjoyed my time at BYU majoring in Health and Physical Education with a Drivers Ed minor. I graduated from BYU in 1998 and was hired at Pleasant Grove Jr. High. I felt connected to the school and community with all the teaching and coaching experience I was able to gain there. I decided after being in the classroom that I wanted to experience the administrative side of education. I applied for and was accepted to BYU in their Masters of Educational Leadership program. After successfully completing their program I was hired in an administrative position at Mountain View High School. I have been there for the last 7 years. I have gained valuable experience in my dealings with students, faculty and patrons at the high school level. I feel that the next step in my growth is here at Shelley. I am excited to be here and to be a part of the Shelley community!