

Role models, mentors champion career

BY JOHN HAUER

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PIQUA — Piqua Junior High School assistant principal Chad Albers has always had positive role models and mentors to champion his career in education. "I've been very fortunate to have supportive, knowledgeable educators show me the way," he said. "My father is in his 47th year in teaching, and Jeff Clark, the junior high principal, continues to help me improve my skills."

Albers grew up in the Maria Stein area. He graduated from Marion Local High School in 1994. He was a class officer, a member of the Future Teachers of America, and played basketball for the Flyers.

"My father Jack Albers was a math teacher and head basketball coach for many years at Marion Local," Chad said. "He had



MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO

Piqua Junior High School assistant principal Chad Albers works at his desk last week.

a true passion for teaching and wanted every student and player to succeed. I was motivated by his love and commitment towards teaching and wanted to follow in his footsteps." His father Jack currently teaches at Lehman Catholic High School. Chad started his college

years at the University of Toledo. After a year, he transferred to the Wright State University Lake campus in Celina. In 1999, he earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education grades 1-8 from WSU. Later, he took classes at Ashland University and was certified

in math grades 7-12. Albers received a master's degree in curriculum from Walden University. And, he became certified in school administration from Bowling Green State University.

Lima City Schools hired Albers in 1999 to teach 6th grade and Title I math. This lasted for two years, then, he moved to Minster to teach math and science at the junior high and high school for Minster Local Schools. After nine years, Albers began his administrative career at Piqua Junior High in 2009.

"I entered administration for the bigger challenges," he said. "Running a classroom is a challenge, but helping run a building of 600 students is a lot more complicated." Albers credits Jeff Clark as being an invaluable mentor. "We make a great team," Albers said. "Jeff is a

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seasoned principal, and I learn something from him every day I am thankful I work with him."

Albers has left his own mark on the junior high by spearheading the effort to have an annual spring 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. Each year about 130 PJHS students visit the nation's capital. "I saw this as an appropriate, rigorous culminating opportunity for our 8th grade students," Albers

said. "For many of our students, this may be the only time they will see our nation's capitol and epitomize its historical significance."

Science Olympiad is another activity that Albers has supported and helped supervise. "We empower the students to create solutions to a problem," he said. "There are local, state and national competitions from other school districts, and the students can continue competing through their high school years."

Albers and the junior high staff are in a continuing process of expanding the opportunities and activities that are available during the 6th period electives. "We are increasing our enrichment classes and offer classes such as Mythology, Model United Nations, Reel to Reel, and Science Exploration," said Albers.

At home, Albers has been married to his wife Cathy for 11 years. The couple has a daughter and a son. Alex is eight years old, and Kaitlynn

is 11. The family lives in Minster. Chad lists family and faith as his highest priorities, but he admits to a lifelong passion for automobiles. "I've owned an '84 Camaro, a '70 Buick Skylark, a '74 Roadrunner, and all sorts of muscle cars....I have a very understanding wife."