

PCS is part of educator's past, present, future



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PIQUA — Dwayne Thompson is the rare educator who can boast that his school district is part of his past, present and future.

Not only does he have a lengthy resume with Piqua City Schools, Thompson also attended Piqua schools, married a Piqua schoolteacher and is the parent of three Piqua schools students.

"I went to Favorite Hill for K-6, Bennett in 7th and 8th grades and graduated from Piqua High School in 1987," he said. "I love the history that this area has to offer and I think the people are very supportive of our district and it's a great place to raise my family."

Thompson's wife, Merrienne, teaches fifth grade science at Wilder Intermediate School.

They are the parents of twin daughters in first grade at High Street Primary and a son who's a kindergartner at Nicklin Learning Center.

As an Ohio University graduate in the early 1990s, Thompson had job offers that would have meant leaving Piqua, but instead, he chose to return to his old stomping ground.

With a degree in elementary education under his belt, Thompson began his career teaching third grade at South Street School, then switching to kindergarten for a couple of years. From there, he taught fifth grade at Favorite Hill Primary School and science and Bennett Intermediate before serving as principal of Favorite Hill for several years.

These days, Thompson has been the director of curriculum and instruction for Piqua City Schools, a position he's held for six years. Simply put, he supports teachers with their instruction, making sure they have the resources they need. The more detailed explanation of his job duties

includes providing updates with Common Core and State Curriculum in the areas of language arts, social studies, art, music and physical education. (Common Core State Standards provide a

consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.)

"I work with the other curriculum director, Dave Shellhaas, to provide professional development to support district and state initiatives," Thompson said.

The past several years have seen a number of changes with public education, so our work with district administrators and teachers to address current state board of education and legislative mandates is important to help us remain current and compliant."

Another responsibility of his job is writing grants and helping teachers secure funding for their programs and classrooms.



Thompson

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Overseeing curriculum and instruction for an entire school district is no small task, but one of the perks of the job for Thompson is interacting with teachers and students.

"I like working with the teachers and having an impact on students through them. In every aspect (of education) that I've ever done, I've always put students first," he said. "I try

to find different things to get involved with the students."

Thompson is a major proponent of getting students involved in their community and region. To that end, he has been built bridges between students and such programs and organizations as D.A.R.E., Piqua Arts Council, Johnston Farm and Indian Agency, Piqua Public Library, Mission:

Veterans to D.C.; Piqua Taste of the Arts; Miami County Parks District and Dayton Muse Machine.

"Any time I can work with students is a good thing," he said. "The nice thing is a lot of the students at the high school are students I had at Favorite Hill, so I get to work with them at a different level and see how they've grown in this district."