

Amlin making an impact

"Teaching seemed a more important way to help others,"

— Jake Amlin



MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO

Washington Intermediate School principal Jake Amlin chats with students at recess.



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PIQUA — First year building administrator Jake Amlin is excited about his new position. The Washington Intermediate School principal has been with Piqua City Schools for seven years as a teacher, but now, he is in charge of a whole building.

Amlin graduated from Butler High School in 1996. He ran track and cross country for the Aviators, and he was a member of the Interact Club and National Honor Society. "I knew I wanted to go to college, and I knew I wanted to do something to have an impact on others," he said. Originally accepted into the very selective journalism program at Ohio University, Amlin switched to education. "Teaching seemed a more important

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way to help others," he said. Amlin earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education in 2000. Later, he received a master's degree in educational leadership and his principal's license from the University of Cincinnati.

After OU, Amlin took a job as an elementary teacher for Cincinnati Public Schools. He worked at Vine Elementary and Taft Elementary. Married and wanting to return to the Dayton area, Amlin and his wife moved to Tipp City. Jake started teaching at Wilder Intermediate School, and his wife Tera began teaching first grade at High Street.

Amlin credits Wilder principal Curt Montgomery with being an influential mentor. "Curt helped me grow as an educator," Amlin said. "He encouraged me to become an administrator, and I

still seek his advice and counsel." Amlin lists all the other veteran administrators with making his transition a smooth process. "Someone is always calling to see how things are going," Amlin said. "Dan Hake of Bennett Intermediate School has been a big help. And, my secretary Faye Shoemaker is a life saver."

Washington School is recognized by the state as "Excellent with Distinction," the highest award a building can earn. "We have an outstanding staff," Amlin said. "They are very dedicated and totally committed to doing what's best for the students."

He also attributes students' successes to the involvement of parents and the local community. "Our families are very supportive. They are an important part of our total team effort," he said. "Being in a community that supports education as much as the

Piqua community does makes the daily challenges much more manageable. The community's strong support of the recent bond issue was yet another indication of the value that the citizens of Piqua place on the work that our teachers and staffs do every day. That means a lot."

With the change to building principal, Amlin has a greater appreciation of the efforts of his staff. "When I was a teacher, I knew what just the people around me were doing," he said. "Now, I can see what everybody in the building is doing. I get excited and energized at the depth of education and the creative things that are being done to educate our kids."

"I do miss being in the classroom every day," he said. "But, I'm still out in the hallways patting kids on the back and encouraging them to keep up the good work." His principal's position allows him to im-

act a greater number of people. "My new role offers greater rewards, but comes with greater challenges," he said. "My views on education match the goals of the district. I know I'm in the right place."

At home, Jake and Tera, who is now a stay-at-home mom, have been married nine years. They have five daughters including two foster daughters who they are in the process of adopting. Their names are Olivia, Emma Kate, Elsie, and the twins Paige and Peyton. Over the years, the Amlins have had other foster children, and that has led to Jake's new hobby of bow hunting. "I went up to Michigan to visit one of our former foster kids, and I got involved in bow hunting," he said. "Ever since, I try to get up there every year to see their family and enjoy the outdoors."