



# Muhlenkamp brings experience to district

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MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO  
Lindsay Muhlenkamp is one of two new guidance counselors at Piqua High School this year.

PIQUA — Lindsay Muhlenkamp is new to the Piqua High School Guidance Department. She is not new to counseling but PHS is a very different setting than her previous assignment at Fairlawn.

"I came from a one-story building that housed K-12, and I was the only counselor for all 700 students," she said. "I comforted crying kindergartners who missed their mommies, checked over

the seniors' college applications, and did anything and everything in-between." At Piqua, Muhlenkamp is the counselor for 300 sophomores.

She was born in Sidney and graduated from Anna High School in 2001. Muhlenkamp (Lindsay Kohler back then) was active in Student Council, Spanish Club, FFA, and soccer. She played baritone saxophone in the band and performed in all the school musicals, singing lead in *Once Upon a Mattress*.

After high school, she entered the University of Dayton to major in early childhood education. "I chose UD because my brother went there, and UD was close, but still far enough away from home," she said. "UD was a great college experience."

"I decided on teaching because of two early influences," she said. "Mrs. Wells, my fourth grade teacher, was very caring and got me excited about school and learning. Mr. Osborne, my high school science teacher, was very challenging, and that helped develop strong study habits." Muhlenkamp credits many good educators with shaping her goal to become a teacher.

"My parents John and Gail Kohler supported my plans,

and my older brother Chad served as an example of motivation and always striving to do your best," she said.

In 2005, Muhlenkamp earned her bachelor's degree from UD and married her husband Philip. Later, she received a master's degree in school counseling from Dayton. She started her first teaching job in 2006, when she was hired by Fairlawn to teach first grade. This lasted for two years, then, she switched to Fairlawn's guidance counselor. "I wanted to reach more than just the same 24 students every day," she said. "Counseling has been a perfect fit. I start each day and end each day with a smile on my face."

This summer, she was hired by Piqua City schools. "I love counseling, but being the only counselor for over 700 students K-12 is very challenging and a little frustrating," she said. "I jumped at the chance to be part of a guidance team at a bigger school."

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While the 'bigness' of PHS can present a problem — "I'm still getting used to finding my way," the bigness offers many more choices and options — "There are so many more classes and sections for my sophomores to have what they want and need." Muhlenkamp will help her sophomores make an important decision. "In January and February, they will decide if they want to stay at PHS or go to the Upper Valley Career Center for their junior and senior years," she said. "For some it will be a life changing decision."

Muhlenkamp has already had a positive impact on her students, and there is a steady stream of students visiting her office. "My favorite quote sums up my attitude," she said. "Life goes by pretty fast, and if you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it."

Away from school, Muhlenkamp lists her hobbies as reading, mainly mysteries, and video games "Yes, I'm a nerd." Her passion is still singing, and she has sung at weddings, family gatherings, and anywhere she has the opportunity.

The Muhlenkamps have been married four years. Phil is a manager for Huelskamp and Kremer Inc. in Dayton. The couple has a son Everett, age 3. The family lives in Troy.