



Mechanicville City School District

NEW RED RAIDER TEAM ALERT!

August 2022



A Message from our new Elementary Principal Don Dieckmann, Jr.



It is with much appreciation and enthusiasm to introduce myself as your new Principal. As I sit here, drafting this welcome letter, I still feel the need to pinch myself as this opportunity is a dream come true. The chance to return to my beloved hometown after 20+ years of working in education to share my passion and experiences to lead this amazing school community means more to me than words can describe. I am so incredibly thankful to Mr. Kolakowski and the Mechanicville BOE for this opportunity!

So here is a little introduction of who I am and a quick snapshot of my journey through my career in education. As mentioned, I proudly grew up in the community and graduated from Mechanicville in 1991, playing football and basketball for the Red Raiders. I am certain that I know many of our families in our school community.

I reside in Niskayuna with my lovely wife Katie of 17 years, and our children Briana and Liam. I have been an active member in the Niskayuna community coaching several football, baseball, softball, and basketball teams and volunteering in the schools for various PTA events.

My education path includes graduating and receiving degrees from HVCC (AA Liberal Arts 1993), SUNY Cortland (BA Sociology 1996), The College of St. Rose (MA School Counseling 2002), and the MCLA Leadership Academy (CAGS School Leadership 2008).

Over the years during my professional career, I have held many positions that have helped me prepare for my role in school leadership, including a Child Care Worker at Berkshire Farms Services for Youth, a Residence Substance Abuse Counselor at TASC, a Teaching Assistant with BOCES of the Capital District and an Education Counselor at Greene Correctional Facility. I then worked for 7 years as a Middle School Counselor and Dean of Students at Draper Middle School in the Mohonasen CSD. I recently completed my 13th year as Elementary School Principal at Grant D. Morse Elementary School in Saugerties. During my tenure in Saugerties, I was able to bring many academic and extra curricular initiatives to the school, working collaboratively with our students, staff, PTA, and school community.

In my many years as a school building leader, I have and will continue to collaborate with ALL stakeholders of the school community and take a holistic approach to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of ALL students. The Mechanicville community has historically reinforced this same approach, continuing the ongoing reputation of taking care of each other. I pledge to our entire school community to keep our school on this steadfast course as the school building leader. With that said, I cannot express in words how happy and excited I am to come home, and get started as the next Principal at Mechanicville Elementary School. I look forward to meeting our students, families, and staff!



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Welcome our new Student Support Services Director

Brianne Hazelton

Ms. Hazelton will oversee Special Education and the Pupil Services Department in her new role as our Director of Student Support Services. Ms. Hazelton joined our team on July 5, 2022 and has been hard at work. The Mechanicville City School District is so excited for the knowledge and skills that Ms. Hazelton brings to our District!

Ms. Hazelton is joined by Kim Dunn as her Administrative Secretary in the Special Education Office.



From the Desk of our new Director of Information Technology

Brian Gidley



I am excited to be joining the Mechanicville family as the Director of Information Technology this upcoming school year. I have accumulated 16 years of experience working in the education technology (.edu) workspace, including as an adjunct professor at HVCC teaching the Cisco Networking Academy curriculum. I like to believe this uniquely positions me with students as they finish high school and enter college and/or the work force and enjoy spending time with them on resume creation and interview preparation. I have two degrees from the University of Albany – a BA in political science/economics and an MS in information science.

On the personal side, my wife and I have been married for 20 years and we have three children, a son and daughter in college and our youngest daughter is a senior at Shen. We are all avid hockey fans and like to travel all over North America to attend games each season. Looking forward to a great year together!

A few words from our Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Director, Chris Turcio



Some information about me; I was born and raised in LaGrangeville NY (near Poughkeepsie). I received a BA in Psychology from Siena College, a Masters of Science in Education from St. Rose, and completed my administrative program at MCLA. My journey in education includes 3 years as a self-contained social development teacher, 2 years as a special education co-teacher, 3 years as the special education Dean and instructional coach, 2.5 years as the instructional supervisor, 2.5 years as the MES principal and now I am taking the role of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. I am extremely excited to use my passion for instruction for my new role in Mechanicville and cannot wait to jump in!

Some additional information that impacts me everyday; I am lucky to be married to Allison Turcio and have two children; Camden (8) and Callie (4). They are my world and everything I do is for them. Some of my hobbies and interests include golf, anything with 2 or more wheels and sports. In general, I am a "Jack of all trades" and try my hand in everything and anything that interests me. I do not like to sit still and believe that the world has too much to offer to not do all we can to take it all in!