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Jessica Ackerman — Kindergarten Teacher

Jessica Ackerman graduated from UW-Wisconsin, White-water, and traveled to the NW and started her career in education as a preschool teacher. "When there was an opportunity to loop-up with my class, I jumped on the chance to become a kindergarten teacher," she said. She eventually became the education coordinator for Joyful Noise Child Development Center in Portland. After eight years with the program, she transitioned to Hillsboro School District. "Liberty High School was expanding its Early Childhood CTE program, an opportunity to inspire students to explore professions within education and social work," Ackerman said. "It was a pleasure to guide and mentor high school students at our onsite preschool and to support community outreach events."

With all the life changes that have occurred under the COVID-19 pandemic, Ackerman reflected on the roles she had in supporting community. "My years as a kindergarten teacher lingered and warmed my heart. It is with joy to join the Siuslaw Elementary Team," she said. "During kindergarten orientation, I was delighted by the kindness of families. The partnership that will continue to strengthen will ensure this first year at the elementary will be engaging and memorable."

Dave Goetz — Siuslaw High School Assistant Principal

Dave Goetz joins Siuslaw this year as the Siuslaw High School Assistant Principal. He has been in education for 25 years and was born and raised in Roseburg, Ore.

"School educators, support staff and coaches played an important role in my life as I was going through school," Goetz said. "I felt if I could make near the impact on a

student's life's as they did on mine, I would go through life very happy and satisfied. Besides, education is the best profession you can be in. We get to positively affect and shape the lives of young people each and every day."

This year, he is looking forward to assisting Siuslaw staff navigate "through the trying times we face educating our students and motivating and preparing all students to reach their greatest potential," he said, quoting the district's motto.

As for challenges, he hopes to handle them, "professionally, collaboratively, as well as with openness, honesty and a high level of integrity," Goetz said. "Always approach challenges with the big picture or final outcome in mind."

The big picture, ultimately, is community.

"Please be assured that we are here for all the students, parents and the greater Florence community," Goetz said. "If it was not for the families, we would not be a part of such a great profession and school system. If you have questions about what is happening with your student or at the high school, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve you and help educate all students who come through our doors. Lastly, get and stay involved in the education of your child. Stay in contact with your child's teachers and ask questions if you don't understand. When we are able to get our doors back open to the public, get involved and volunteer."

Nathan Green — Siuslaw Middle School Assistant Principal

Nathan Green will be joining the district as the Siuslaw Middle School Assistant Principal. He has previously been a special education teacher for 8 years.

Green grew up in Michigan and moved to the Oregon coast with his wife and two

children in 2008.

"I have a passion for working with students," he said. "I have been a teacher, coach and mentor in my career. I want to take what I have learned to the administrative level to benefit the whole school."

This year, he is looking forward to working with the great staff, wonderful students and supportive parents in this community.

"I want to see how all the innovations we have learned about online learning can benefit the students," Green said. "I embrace challenges as a way to grow as a person and an educator. I believe trying to learn from challenges will help you with the next challenge you face."

To the greater community, he said, "I am very excited to be able to help with the education of the students in this community. I know we have had to learn a new way of educating the students since last March. I have been impressed with how the staff, parents and community have handled this so far. I am hopeful we can get back to in-person instruction when it is safe and appropriate to do. I am proud to be a Viking and represent Siuslaw schools in my new position."

Cody Kiesling — Director of Bands at Siuslaw Middle and High Schools

Cody Kiesling is the new Siuslaw School District band director, a native Oregonian with a music degree from the University of Oregon. He graduated in 2020 with his bachelor's in music education. His particular focuses were in French horn and band pedagogy.

"All of my experience comes from my time at University of Oregon, practicum and my student teaching — which was modified for online instruction," Kiesling said.

Kiesling is originally from Medford, Ore., and is the first person in his entire family to go to a four-year university.

"I'm excited to start my career teaching and look forward to meeting and teaching students about music," he said. "Go Vikings!"

Jennifer Lindell — SHS Special Education Teacher

Jennifer Lindell has been in education for 24 years. She is originally from Fresno, Calif.

"During college I worked as a coordinator for Fresno City Parks and Recreation and specifically enjoyed working with all people with disabilities," Lindell said. "My favorite assignment was working at a school specifically designed for children with disabilities."

After that, she earned a degree in the field of special education, obtaining her master's degree at Fresno State University. She then taught elementary and high school for seven years, as well as working for two educational publishing and research companies.

"Working in education has always fed my soul," Lindell said. "This is my first year back in education after raising our daughter Claire (13) as a stay-home mom. I'm looking forward to connecting with students, faculty and the community in the capacity of an educator."

As for this year and its challenges, Lindell said, "I hope to encourage students to continue their desire to learn within the scope of distance learning and to look at this as an opportunity to hone their skills in technology. The advancement of technology will only grow exponentially

in the future and this will give our students a very important tool to carry forward into the workforce."

To the greater community,

she said, "I am very honored to serve this community and the families within it. I already feel very welcomed! We barely moved here two years ago and it already feels like I'm home."

William (Jason) Lipe — Integrated Sciences SHS

William (Jason) Lipe is a science teacher with more than 10 years of experience who is originally from Klamath Falls, Ore.

"I have a bachelor of science degree in wildlife management from OSU and enjoy teaching what I've learned," Lipe said.

He looks forward to getting past COVID-19 and will handle challenges "one step at a time."

To the community, he said, "I look forward to meeting some of you and teaching your children."

Parma Roe — SMS Counselor

Parma Roe will be a school counselor for Siuslaw Middle School. She attended College at Oregon State University.

"I grew up right here and graduated from Siuslaw High School," she said. "I was originally hired in this district by Boomer Wright in 1985."

Roe worked at Siuslaw for 15 years as an elementary/middle school teacher and 12 years as a school counselor. She also worked in other districts in the last 7 years as a special education director.

"I officially retired about 4 years ago, and now I am 'back in my happy place' working with students and families at Siuslaw. It is good to be home," she said.

Roe originally became interested in counseling for two reasons.

"When I was a teacher I was

always drawn to those students who frequently found themselves in some sort of a behavioral jam, but were truly unaware of their own liability in it," she said. "Also, probably because I was somewhat of a naughty kid myself."

This year, "I am so looking forward to working with students directly and in person. I hope we will see our kids in the halls this year."

As she prepared for the year, Roe had to learn the new technology necessary for CDL.

"I am taking things day-by-day, and every day gets a little easier. Our young tech-savvy teachers have offered me a lot of help, and I am ever so thankful to them," she said.

As to the community, "We miss you! The school environment is just not the same without our youngsters' energy, buoyancy and humor. It is entirely too quiet around here! Remember we are all in this together, and we will come out stronger for the experience."

The Siuslaw School District also welcomes new Siuslaw middle and high school CTE instructor for construction and woodshop, TJ Wilson.

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Zoom Worship Service 11 AM Sunday
Bishop Larry Farnsworth 541-999-1979

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Sunday School, 9:30a.m. — Worship, 10:45
Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. —
Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.

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Corner of 10th & Maple- 541-997-3533
Sunday Live Services: 9am & 11am (please pre-register)
Facebook Streaming: 11am Sunday morning
https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online
Other platforms update after the service.
florencecrossroadag.org
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1935 25th St. — 997-7660 • Pastor, Ron Allen
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2nd & Ivy - 541-997-2961 - Non-Denominational
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www.churchofchristflorence.org

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