

Superintendent Biography

I grew up about 3-4 hours south of Manhattan, in a very small town called Hazel Dell. I eventually moved to the bigger town of Casey, IL where I lived most of my life. After graduating from Casey High School, now the consolidated school district of Casey-Westfield, I attended Eastern Illinois University. I would eventually graduate and obtain three degrees from EIU, all in education. I received a Bachelor of Arts in Education in December of 1988, a Masters of Science in Education in May of 1998, and a Specialist in Education in August of 2004.

My teaching career began in Arthur, IL. I started as the high school social studies and driver education teacher. I also coached the sports of track and basketball. After my first two years, I transferred to the junior high to teach social studies while remaining as the driver education teacher. In addition to my coaching duties, I assumed the responsibilities of Athletic Director for grades 6-12. My first nine years in education were spent in the Arthur Community School District where I also lived with my wife and two sons.

In the 1998-99 school year, I accepted my first administrative position with the Cumberland CUSD 77 school district as Assistant Principal for the K-8 building. I would remain as the Assistant Principal with Cumberland for two years before accepting a position as the Junior High Principal for Casey-Westfield beginning with the 2000-2001 school year. For the next five years, I would serve my hometown community as their Junior High Principal. In 2005-06, I would be offered the position as Superintendent of Schools for a district that I previously served, Cumberland CUSD 77. It was an honor to return to their district and serve the next eight years as their district Superintendent. Beginning with my first teaching position and all the way through my educational journey, each new position and the challenges that came with them, prepared me for my time here in Manhattan.

From a personal standpoint, I married my wife, Camille, in 1986. We have two sons, Brennan and Bryton. Both of our sons are graduated from college, Brennan from Olivet Nazarene University, and Bryton from Eastern Illinois University. I love athletics, especially baseball (Pirates Fan, not Cubs or Sox), attending music concerts, theatre productions, spending time with my wife and sons, our dog, Max (a Siberian Husky), and attending Manhattan 114 events to support our students. My favorite thing to eat is Pizza and my favorite thing to do is *Laugh*.

I hope the information I have shared with all of you helps to give you a sense of who I am as a person and how I came to be a Superintendent. It has been a wonderful and eventful journey in education and I have always known from the beginning that I wanted to be an educator. It has always been my passion and I can think of nothing else that I would rather do, than serve the students and the families of Manhattan. We have a tremendous staff, and a very supportive Board of Education at MSD114. I also believe we serve the best families and students. *All of this makes MSD114 the BEST!*

