



**MISCHKE**

Stillwater  
**Assistant Principal**  
takes over as  
**Principal of BHS**

# questions answered

students sit down with future principal mark mischke



things **to do** today

“ we tease him about that **memo pad**.  
he makes **lists** for everything,  
he writes it all down so  
**nothing** goes **unattended**. ”

-Stillwater Counselor Kate Nelson

## What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of [kids who graduate](#). I got to know those kids from Junior High and watched them grow and graduate on past the life I've helped to develop.

## What is a stereotype you feel you have to fight as a principal?

That we're disciplinarians and don't care about kids. The reason we take this job, and gravitate to that position is because [we want to make that impact on students' lives](#). They think we don't care, but we do. And everybody thinks we yell a lot and that's all we ever call kids down to the office for. It's not always for something bad, sometimes we just want to talk and relate to students.

## What are your views on a referendum?

It seems the community is permanently burdened with budgets. The high school depends on getting those few extra dollars from the community. If the community wants to stay strong they need to realize [there's nothing more important than education](#). As a community member, having an educated youth is priceless and opens up so many possibilities.

## What were you like as a high school student?

I was pretty smart. I was second in my graduating class of 75. I got one B+ in 9th grade. I was involved in theater, track, basketball, football. I think [I liked school](#) because I was so interested in pursuing education as a career. It came naturally and the memories, as I look back, are as fond as they can get.

## So, have you always known you wanted to be a principal?

Since I was 12 I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I worked at summer school, daycare, anywhere I knew I could help kids. [I figured out education was the best place for me to have the greatest impact on children](#). And it just took me to higher education and administration followed soon after. Those positions are the ones that you can have an even bigger effect on students.

## What are your expectations of the student body?

Soon I'll be out and a part of the school. I want them to be able to show me what's good. Why I should want to be there. [I will never ask for trust I did not earn and I know that takes time](#). However, it works the same way around. Some people will base their feelings on first impressions, which is understandable, but I hope that's not everything. I will model my behavior after an environment I seek to establish.

## What is your first impression of Buffalo High School?

I haven't seen any problems. I see all the good stuff from the outside. And although most of what I hear [I'm sure is authentic](#), I can't answer that question without being in there for awhile.

## What is your top priority in coming to Buffalo?

There are so many, but the biggest priority? To allow people to get to know people. I personally know that the biggest connections you can make are ones with students. It shows that you want to be involved and you're willing to make it work. The building can only be a winning environment if I'm out and about and everyone decides to work together.

## Why did you choose Buffalo High School?

Why Not? I have three small children and I wanted to come home, be in the area that I grew up in. Family is of the utmost importance to me. So we practically sat down, circled it on a map. My wife and I both grew up in this area so we wanted to be close to home without being too close. So I did my research after I heard about the position opening up. I even knew [Dr. Nick] Miller informally and already knew about how much his legacy had echoed within the community. That means there's something worth trying to follow.

## How do you plan to gain trust from students?

I want to be part of the community. Through hallway conversations, some informal meetings, activities at night, real conversations, anything to get in touch with the student body. I need to get to know them and they need to get to know me before anybody is able to trust anybody. I actually want to have lunches or something once or twice a week all summer to create a voice for myself as well as students. It would create a perfect opportunity for everyone to visit about what they want, what they envision for next year.

## If you could change anything about our school, what would you change?

I wouldn't be coming to the school if I didn't think it was [surrounded by good, strong people](#). I just think I need to stay ahead of the game and adjust accordingly. I just haven't gotten a chance to work with them so I can't really judge anything yet.

## Who do you look to as a mentor?

[Stillwater Area High School Principal] Christopher Lennox and the positive relations he is able to build has taught me a lot, [Edina Superintendent] Rick Dresson is amazing at what he does because being in that position is as far away as you can get from the student body, but he was still able to be a recognizable face, and definitely [Stillwater Junior High School Principal] Rick Whipler because I learned what I was doing from him. Instead of supervising, they taught me how to be involved. After watching and working with them I learned how to take from them what I wanted and [molded those aspects into myself](#).

# A FRAMILIAR FEELING

STUDENTS AT STILLWATER SAY GOOD-BYE TO A GOOD PRINCIPAL, BUT PASS HIM ON WITH A GOOD WORD.



If you ever need someone, even if he doesn't know you, he's just so easy to talk to. From homework to personal relationships, he helps with everything.

My dad died when I was a freshman and I went through a lot, with school, friends, family, it was a lot to deal with. He was able to reassure me that people really do care.

Ashley Hendrickson

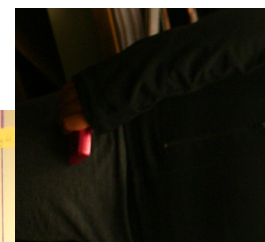


Nick Newman

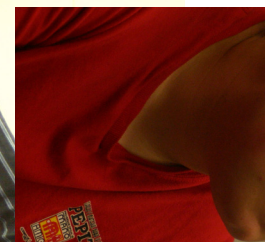
He always sticks by what he says. He's just a good natured guy and he has such an amazing work ethic. It's easy for us to say that he knows how to have fun because he separates fun with work so well. He doesn't confuse the two.

Megan Wollak

The best thing about him being a part of any school is that there won't be a huge feeling of change, that is, if there's any at all.



Breanna Ramirez  
We call him the 'Mischkenator'. I would love students to know how caring he is, how easy it is to go to him with anything.



Clark Weyrauch  
He never has a bad attitude that makes him hard to go to. He's awesome to be around because he's so real.

Ian Dornfeld

If you get to know him, he's a good friend to have. He won't ever judge you either.