

RUTLAND CENTRAL SUPERVISORY UNION
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February 11, 2015

Dear West Rutland School Staff and Community,

I am pleased to introduce our future West Rutland School Principal, Mrs. Sarah Merrill.

Mrs. Merrill is a native Vermonter who is passionate about providing all of our children with a well-rounded, dynamic education. She was raised in Arlington, Vermont. When asked about her education experiences, she commented, "I received an excellent academic, extra-curricular and social education, and because of this, I believe in the powers of a small town, community-supported school."

A graduate of Castleton State College where she received her Bachelor's in Social Work, Mrs. Merrill began her professional career at Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, MA, where she worked with deaf/blind adolescents with multiple handicaps. She held various educational roles as a Parks & Recreation Director, Athletic Director and Director of Student Life. After receiving her Master's in Education, she spent the next twelve years at Manchester Elementary Middle School as teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. Mrs. Merrill holds her Vermont Educator's license in Elementary Education and K-12 Educational Administration. She brings a thorough understanding of the academic, physical and social needs of children and adults.

When describing her experience and background, Mrs. Merrill stated, "I am incredibly passionate about teaching and learning. Professional Learning Communities and Innovative Teaching and Learning guide me in my leadership role. Specifically, the foundation of Professional Learning Communities, as defined by Rick DuFour, establishes high levels of learning by creating a culture of trust and collaboration with a focus on results. Ensuring all students learn, calls for creative, innovative approaches to teaching and learning: designing instruction to promote thinking and creativity while building compassionate, engaged learners. I am focused on improving instruction and academic rigor while attending to the needs of the whole child. It is my expectation that all students will reach their fullest potential, grow academically and socially while engaging in multiple learning opportunities. As an instructional leader, I provide staff and learners with a safe environment which supports learning and develops strong character."

When she is not in the schoolhouse, Mrs. Merrill is outdoors; playing with her rescued pets, backpacking, camping, kayaking, hiking, snowshoeing and traveling. She enjoys running, adventures with her extended family and exploring new places with her husband Nate, a middle level social studies teacher.

Mrs. Merrill is very excited to lead West Rutland School staff and work in partnership with our community. "It is my honor to have been chosen as the next Principal at West Rutland School. I look forward to meeting you, and learning with you, to continue providing a well-rounded, dynamic education to all of our children."

Mrs. Merrill will join our school on July 1, 2015. Please join me in welcoming her!

Sincerely,

Debra J. Taylor

Debra J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

***Rutland Central Supervisory Union serves the schools and communities of
Proctor, Rutland Town and West Rutland.
Our Mission is to ensure that all students learn at a high level.***