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Princeton Middle School welcomes new educational leader

Principal Charlie Bakker previously worked in St. Michael-Albertville



Photo by Michael Pappas Town & Country

Charlie Bakker grew up in Rockford, Minnesota, where he was the son of two teachers. Bakker began his administrative career in 2013, spending two years as an assistant principal at Sartell High School before returning to St. Michael-Albertville in 2015 as an assistant principal at Middle School East. He is pictured greeting students on Sept. 8.

TIM HENNAGIR
Town & Country

Obtaining a leadership role in a district that values strong relationships was the perfect career change scenario for new Princeton Middle School principal Charlie Bakker, who has replaced former Principal Dan Voce.

In March, the Mora School Board approved a contract to hire Voce as its superintendent. Voce served as an assistant principal and principal in the district for 12 years. The 2020-2021 school year will be Voce's 30th year in the education field. "When I looked at Princeton, I felt it was right in my wheelhouse in terms of focusing on relationships," Bakker said. "Both of my parents were educators. I grew up in Rockford, another river town. Princeton Middle School's being right next to a beautiful wildlife area is great. It was important for me to find a district that really emphasizes activities for kids, which is a big part of why I do what I do."

During his time in Rockford, Bakker was heavily involved in sports and the arts, which still greatly impacts his priorities to develop the whole child and encourage students to be well-rounded people.

He attended college at the University of Jamestown, where he continued to stay involved in sports and the arts, participating in football, track and field, and choir.

He majored in English/Secondary and Middle School Education and graduated in 2000. Bakker would later receive his master's degree from the College of St. Catherine and his administrative license from Hamline University.

The start of this school year marks Bakker's 21st first year in K-12 education, and the Princeton School District will be the fourth district in which he has worked.

Principal

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