

North Hopkins ISD starts school with new staff members

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
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North Hopkins Independent School District will begin the year with at least nine new staff members hired to replace at least six staff members who resigned and one who retired. Three staff members have also been reassigned to new duties within the district.

Julie Smith will serve as student services and testing coordinator, replacing the Connie Westbrook, who retired last year.

Former girls basketball coach Larry Tucker will be the principal's assistant for prekindergarten through 12th grade; he will also teach English and speech classes. Curtis Smith will be the new head girls basketball coach and will also teach elementary physical education.

Jeff Percell will replace head softball and junior high girls basketball coach Kaylee Wood, who resigned as in order to become head volleyball coach at Class 3A Lone Oak. In addition to serving as head softball and junior high girls basketball coach, Percell will also teach social studies and physical education.

Michael Touchstone will also be teaching social studies and physical education while coaching basketball to junior high boys.

Junior high coach Garrett Todd has been elevated to boys head varsity basketball coach. Todd will take over for Coach Todd Law, who moved to Douglass to coach and be closer to his parents. Todd Law's wife Charla also resigned her position as sixth grade teacher. Jennifer Matlock was hired to replace Charla Law; Matlock will teach sixth and seventh grade English and science.

Kadee Todd will be replacing Barbara Hollenshead, who moved to Gainesville to teach at a juvenile detention center, where her husband Jerry is employed. Todd will teach high school math and junior high science teacher, will also coaching junior high volleyball and assist with high school volleyball.

Sherri Hocutt will take over teaching sixth and seventh grade math and science.

Former school librarian Lisa Sprague will be replacing seventh, eighth and ninth grade English teacher Elizabeth Joslin, who moved with husband Brandon to Oklahoma, where he is working. Replacing Sprague in the library will be Maygan Adams.

At the elementary school, Carmen Defrene will be teaching fourth grade in place of Deborah Caffey, who moved to Canton.

Rounding out the list of staff changes and hires is Patti Vaughn, who was hired as a para-professional in the special education department.