

For Immediate Release

**Washington County Schools names new Instructional Coaches for the 2017-2018 school year.**

Washington County Director of Schools Kimber Halliburton is excited to introduce the new Instructional Coaches for the Washington County School system. These experienced educators were identified by a team of district level staff and current principals through a rigorous interview process involving the review of evidence of each candidate's teaching skills, their results in the classroom and their ability to coach other professionals. Mrs. Halliburton states that "Instructional Coaches provide learning opportunities that can be adapted to the specific teacher and the particular classroom setting. Instructional Coaches aid the transfer and application of new teaching methods and strategies in a teacher's daily classroom instruction which greatly impacts student achievement." According to the Pennsylvania Institute for Instructional Coaching, "91% of teachers coached regularly stated that coaches helped them understand and use new teaching strategies. Additionally, 79% of teachers coached regularly said that their coach played a significant role in improving their classroom instruction and practice. Teachers who were regularly coached one-on-one reported that: they made significant changes in their instructional practices; their students were more engaged in the classroom and enthusiastic about learning; and that attendance increased dramatically in their classes."

The Instructional Coaches and their assignments are:

- Boones Creek Elementary School – Melinda Carr
- Boones Creek Middle School – Nikki Skeen
- Fall Branch School – Khris Morelock
- Grandview School – Misha Croley
- Gray School – Kristi Presley
- Jonesborough Elementary School – Shirley Lowery
- Jonesborough Middle School– Jenny Galloway
- Lamar School – Angela Shelton
- Ridgeview School – Brandi Menge
- South Central School – Dr. Jill Leonard
- Sulphur Springs School – Alice Ann Smith
- Westview School – Jennie Good

About the new Instructional Coaches:

**Boones Creek Elementary School**



Melinda Carr

Melinda Carr has served as Curriculum Coordinator for the Washington County Department of Education for the past five years. She is an instructional leader who strives to provide quality curriculum and instructional support to teachers and administrators while transitioning to more rigorous TN curriculum standards. During her sixteen years in the Washington County School System, Mrs. Carr has been a teacher, administrator, school-level coach, district-curriculum coordinator, and coach in the *Read to be Ready Network*. She co-wrote and was awarded a 2017 *Read to Be Ready* Summer Grant for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade Washington County students. Mrs. Carr has developed and presented

professional development topics including: Effective Use of Word Walls and Academic Vocabulary, Benchmark Universe, Balanced Literacy, Differentiated Instruction, Reading and Writing Workshop, New Teacher Induction, Common Formative Assessment and Common Core English Language Arts Instructional Shifts. In addition to her professional development work with teachers and administrators, Mrs. Carr has helped lead the Blended Learning Academy and is a recent graduate of The Artisan Teacher program with Dr. Mike Rutherford. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from East Tennessee State University and a Master of Education Degree in Instructional Leadership (K-12) from East Tennessee State University.

### **Boones Creek Middle School**



**Nikki Skeen**

Having spent 17 years of her career in Kingsport City Schools, Mrs. Skeen is not new to education. Prior to joining Washington County schools, she has served as a district literacy coach, administrator, and teacher with Kingsport City Schools. Mrs. Skeen also successfully developed and led X-STREAM camp for middle school students in the summer of 2015, a STEM focused camp that allows students to experience project-based learning with a hands-on approach exploring the design process. She is a native of Bristol, TN and has recently moved to Jonesborough where she lives with her husband and their daughter. Mrs. Skeen holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Sociology from Carson-Newman University, a Master of Education Degree from Milligan College, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Leadership and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University.

### **Fall Branch School**



**Khris Morelock**

Mrs. Morelock began her teaching career in 2009 as a Title I teacher at Gray School. She then transitioned into system-wide K-12 English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. Mrs. Morelock most recently served as RTI<sup>2</sup> teacher at Fall Branch School. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree and Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from East Tennessee State University and an ESL endorsement from UT Martin.

### **Grandview School**



**Misha Croley**

Misha Croley is a proud product of Washington County Schools. She attended Boones Creek Elementary and Middle Schools before graduating from Daniel Boone High School. She started her teaching career at Lamar School in 2006 and has been teaching at Ridgeview School for the past 6 years as a Kindergarten teacher educating our earliest learners. Mrs. Croley has served as a mentor teacher, an Early Learning Model District training team member and a KEY

Learning Leader trainer. “As a lifelong resident of Washington County I feel privileged to start this new chapter of my career, and to be able to give back to the district as the Instructional Coach at Grandview Elementary,” she said. Mrs. Croley holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing from East Tennessee State University and a Master of Arts in Education Degree from Milligan College.

### Gray School



#### Kristi Presley

Kristi Presley is a product of Washington County Schools. She attended West View Elementary and is a 1993 graduate of David Crockett High School. She comes to Washington County Schools with nineteen years of experience in public education. Thirteen of those years were spent as a classroom teacher. She also has two years of experience as an educational consultant and four years of experience as an academic coach. She began her career at Avery’s Creek Elementary in Buncombe County, NC where she taught kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and a K/1 multi-age class. She then moved back to Tennessee and began working in Greene County Schools, teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Chuckey Elementary for one year. The next two years were spent as an educational consultant for the LRE for LIFE Project, a grant-funded project that provided professional development to schools across Middle and East Tennessee. Mrs. Presley then returned to Greene County Schools to work at Ottway School, teaching 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> ELA, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade self-contained, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> ELA. In 2011, she became an academic coach for Greene County Schools, serving Glenwood, McDonald, and Mosheim schools for three years, and serving as a district-wide coach for one year. In 2015, she returned to the classroom at Ottway School where she taught 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA. Mrs. Presley earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from East Tennessee State University, a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership from Union College, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lincoln Memorial University.

### Jonesborough Elementary School



#### Shirley Lowery

Mrs. Lowery began her teaching career at Gray Elementary as a third grade teacher before going to Jonesborough Elementary as a fourth grade teacher. A gifted grant writer, Mrs. Lowery received various grants that were used to purchase a classroom set of laptops, a computer math program, hands-on science materials, and books for teacher’s classrooms. In 2010, she moved from the classroom to the position of instructional coach where she had the privilege to work with the students and faculty at South Central, West View, Jonesborough Elementary, and Grandview Schools. “Utilizing data driven instructional practices and content knowledge, I was able to help the schools

achieve their goals. Being a life-long learner has always been a vital part of my educational path,” she states. Mrs. Lowery has received professional development in a variety of areas throughout her career, including the Artisan Teacher training, the Early Learning Model for Kindergarten and the Ready to Be Ready Initiative for K-2. Mrs. Lowery earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education Degrees from East Tennessee State University in elementary education along with an Administration and Supervision endorsement from East Tennessee State University.

### **Jonesborough Middle School**



#### **Jenny Galloway**

Mrs. Jennifer Galloway is committed to helping students and teachers excel through assisting them in setting and surpassing their academic and professional goals. An eight year Washington County veteran, she spent one year at Lamar as a Title I ELA instructor and seven years at Gray as a 5th grade math teacher. Mrs. Galloway is a graduate of the Artisan Teacher program with Mike Rutherford and has served as Teacher Leader for Gray School. She also serves on Milligan’s External Council, providing feedback on the current needs of local school systems and evaluating Milligan’s teacher preparation program in meeting those needs. Mrs. Galloway received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Campbell University and her Master of Education degree from Milligan College.

### **Lamar School**



#### **Angela Shelton**

Passionate about teaching and learning, Mrs. Angela Shelton has served in the field of education for the past fifteen years as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, and district curriculum coordinator. With a commitment to implementing strong instructional practices, she supports administrators, teachers, and students by using research-based strategies aligned with *The Artisan Teacher Approach* by Mike Rutherford. In addition to her position with the Washington County Department of Education, Mrs. Shelton works with pre-service teachers as an adjunct professor at East Tennessee State University and serves on the board of the Gilbreath Reading Association, which provides professional development for literacy instructors throughout Northeast Tennessee. Mrs. Shelton holds a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Mars Hill University, a Master’s in Reading Education from East Tennessee State University, and an Education Specialist’s degree in Instructional Leadership from Lincoln Memorial University.

## Ridgeview School



### Brandi Menge

Mrs. Brandi Menge is committed to putting the needs of students first and encouraging teachers to use best practices to continually refine their craft. She has served as a first grade teacher at Boones Creek Elementary School for the past six years. Mrs. Menge created a classroom environment that allowed her students to flourish as readers, writers, and problem solvers. She attended Mike Rutherford's Artisan Teacher Training and served on Washington County Schools' Early Learning Model portfolio team. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from East Tennessee State University and a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction as a Reading Specialist from Carson Newman University.

## South Central School



### Dr. Jill Leonard

Dr. Jill Leonard is working on her 23<sup>rd</sup> year as a teacher in Washington County Schools. She has taught and served in many capacities during her tenure. Her service includes teaching in grades Kindergarten- second grade at Gray School and South Central School, participating on many committees, writing grants for her classroom and school improvement, and providing professional development to many teachers in several different environments. Her most recent training opportunity was as a facilitator for the *2017 State of TN Summer Training for the Revised TN Standards*. Dr. Leonard is thrilled to begin her service as an Instructional Coach and looks at this opportunity as a way to use her experience and education to touch even more student's lives as she helps teachers improve and fine tune the practices used to teach the students that come to them. Dr. Leonard received her Bachelor of Education Degree in Elementary Education from East Tennessee State University, a Master of Education Degree from Tusculum College, and her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Early Childhood Education from East Tennessee State University.

## Sulphur Springs



### Alice Ann Smith

Mrs. Alice Ann Smith is dedicated to improving the quality of education in Washington County classrooms by developing the best educators possible through assisting with curriculum needs, training teachers, analyzing data, and implementing rigorous educational programs throughout the district. Mrs. Smith began her teaching career at Lamar School in 2009, and has also taught elementary and middle school at Gray Elementary and Ridgeview Elementary. She served the district last year as a Data, Curriculum, and Instruction Coordinator and state-wide as a Read to Be Ready coach. During her time in Washington County Schools, Mrs. Smith has participated in the Artisan Teacher training, the Early Learning Model District training team, and the TN Ready

Standards team. “I’m so excited and genuinely honored to work with the outstanding faculty and staff employed by Washington County Schools,” she said. Mrs. Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from East Tennessee State University, a Master of Arts in Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction (K-12) from Tusculum College, and an Education Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Instructional Leadership (PreK-12) Licensure from Lincoln Memorial University.

### **Westview School**



#### **Jennie Good**

Mrs. Jennie Good is a product of Washington County Schools. She attended Boones Creek Elementary and Boones Creek Middle School before graduating from Daniel Boone High School. Mrs. Good was determined to teach in the Washington County School System so she could give back to the community that molded her. She has twelve years of teaching and coaching experience at Sulphur Springs School. Her experience comes in multiple grade levels, including 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Mrs. Good has served in multiple leadership roles while working at Sulphur Springs. She was selected to be a Learning Leader in Washington County, and has recently graduated from The Artisan Teacher Program with Mike Rutherford. Mrs. Good is eager to expand and challenge her expertise in the education field. She is enthusiastic about training, coaching, and collaborating with the teaching staff, administration, and other stakeholders to meet the needs of our students. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education-Interdisciplinary Studies (K-8) and a Master of Education Degree from East Tennessee State University.