

PINE-RICHLAND RAMPAGE

New Year, New Face: *Meet Assistant Principal Dr. Hernandez*

LIZZI MONTANTI AND CAMERON PERKINS DESIGN EDITORS

PR welcomes Dr. Hernandez or “Dr. H”, as new assistant principal just in time for the 2021-2022 school year. After his appointment was approved by the School Board in early August, he spent the remainder of the summer adjusting to the school and his new position. The reputation and values of PR made applying for this position a “no-brainer,” he said.

Dr. H earned his bachelor’s degree at Geneva College, and also earned both his masters and doctorate degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. This is where he first met Principal Mrs. Bowman while attending Pitt.

His past experiences in the education field will allow Dr. H to support PR in many aspects. He first became a teacher at Freedom High School in Beaver County where he taught U.S. history, psychology, and sociology for 5 years. In addition, he spent 3 years as the football coach and was involved in the musical productions of *The Music Man* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Dr. H was also the assistant principal at the high school and principal at the middle school of the Freedom Area District. He continued his leadership roles at West Allegheny School District. He was the middle school principal for 3 years and the high school principal for 2 years.

“To me, the best part about working at school is just seeing everything that kids can do,” he said.

Dr. H said he is passionate about extracurricular activities and how they influence a student’s livelihood and success. He already started showing his support for PR’s extracurriculars when he visited the high school band at the stadium during band camp this summer.

“They sound fantastic; they’re really good at what they do,” he said.

He also visited football practice and witnessed a few other practices too.

“What I’m looking forward to, because I have a background in athletics, [is] just being there as an extra support for our coaches as somebody who has done it before,” he said.

As the school year progresses, he said he is looking forward to attending more games and events.

Dr. H’s love for extracurricular activities extend beyond school as well.

“My hobbies very much so are my children and family,” he said. That family includes his wife, 2-year-old son, and daughters ages 6 and 8. One activity that he said he cherishes is watching his daughters play youth soccer.

The experiences Dr. H had as a student sparked his passion for education. Since being at school was not enjoyable for him, he said, he never imagined himself pursuing a career related to education. However, during his senior year, the teacher of his current events class completely changed his attitude towards school and learning; this had a monumental impact on him and his future. The teacher took interest in his students, he said, and, “made it known that it was important to him to know about us as people.” Through this course, Dr. H was engaged in learning about topics of his interest; this transformed his dislike of school into a passion. While earning his doctorate degree, he discussed his teacher’s impact on him in his dissertation.

During his first year at PR, Dr. H is excited to develop connections with PR students and staff.

“Building relationships is number one. I want to get to know every staff member in the building and as many students as possible.” Every single person I’ve met here has been absolutely fantastic and so helpful.”

In preparation for the new school year, he spent time studying the yearbook and navigating the halls of the building. Throughout the year, he plans to visit one classroom each day to offer feedback and support by observing what and how students are learning.

Dr. H is assigned to work specifically with students with last names P-Z in all grade levels. In addition, he will work on safety and security policies. The health and safety of students and staff is a priority to him and all administrators, he said. “We’re fortunate that we are coming back five days per week in-person and want to maintain that as long as possible,” he said.

“I’m really excited, whether it’s SAP or RAMS Way, sports, or extracurricular clubs and activities, to connect directly with kids,” he said. Dr. H encourages students of all grades to get involved in school activities, pursue their interests, utilize resources, plan for the future, and enjoy it--because high school goes fast.



Dr. Hernandez is the new assistant principal.

A Senior's Point of View: *My Last First Day of High School*

ABBY MORELAND FREELANCE REPORTER

When you sit down in the auditorium for freshmen orientation before your first day of high school begins, Principal Mrs. Bowman will tell you that before you know it, you'll be sitting in the same seats preparing for graduation. As I was planning for my first week of school as a senior, I realized that these past three years have flown by, and I am now in the spot that felt so long ago when I was a freshman.

Days before my freshman year, I remember the day that I went to the high school with my older sister and how terrified I was of the school. Three years later, a lot has changed. Although that day will forever remind me of the nerves I had for freshman year, I still got this same feeling about my senior year.

I was scared for my first day of high school and what these four years would be like, but I realized that soon enough I'll once again be that nervous freshman, yet this time, in college.

I am eager to start the next chapter of my life and to be on my own in college, but I don't know if I'm quite ready to leave high school. Thinking about the fact

“The first day of school is just a new beginning so if you are worried as a freshman, know that seniors have been in your shoes.”

that in less than a year I will be graduating and standing on the football field saying goodbye to the people that I have known since kindergarten is hard.

While I of course don't want to be sad about having to leave high school, I do plan on having the most amazing senior year. I can't wait to spend time with my friends and enjoy all the senior activities

we get to participate in and make memories that will last a lifetime.

The first day of school will always be something that is dreadful for me, yet simultaneously one of the most exciting days of the year. It can be nerve racking, but that is something we all feel whether you're a freshman, sophomore, junior, or a senior. I can only speak for myself, but even as a senior, I was still nervous about the first day of school. It's always one of those days that feels like a rollercoaster. There will be times that are exciting like meeting up with friends, seeing your favorite teacher, picking a lunch table, and the not so fun times like thinking that you know where your class is but ending up on the wrong side of the school.

The first day of school is a new beginning so if you were worried as a freshman, know that seniors have been in your shoes. The first day is a new start for a wonderful school year for all of us.

PICTURE OF THE WEEK!



Welcome Back: Mrs. Harshman's 9th period Yearbook class brainstorms and shares ideas for this school year. Photo by senior Cameron Perkins.

REMINDER:

OPEN HOUSE

& ACTIVITY FAIR

Tuesday, September 14th

6:30-8:30pm

Learn about school clubs and activities.