

Meet our New Principal—Mr. Jesse Jackson!

Mr. Jesse Jackson was recently selected to serve as our new Butte Falls Charter School Principal. He comes to us with a wealth of teaching, leading, and serving experience and brings much energy and enthusiasm with him.

Mr. Jackson grew up in a small rural Douglas County community. He attended and graduated from the Days Creek School District (Douglas County School District #15).

After high school, he went into the job market. For five years he managed upscale manufactured home communities in Philomath, OR and Pueblo, CO, gaining valuable business experience in budgeting, analyzing profit/loss statements, and receiving awards from the corporate headquarters (Manager of the Year, four-time Quarterly Excellence Award Winner, etc.). It was his desire to serve others, however, that brought him back to Oregon to attend college and obtain a teaching license.



Mr. Jackson enrolled at Oregon State University and majored in Anthropology/Archeology and Education. During that time, he participated in summer archeological digs sponsored by OSU. His instructor and field director remembers his willingness to roll up his sleeves and work hard until tasks were done completely and correctly.

Mr. Jackson graduated with honors in 2013, receiving two Bachelor's Degrees and obtaining a Preliminary Teaching License in Social Studies (PK-12). He has upgraded that license to a Professional Teaching License in Social Studies (PK-12).

Mr. Jackson began his teaching career completing his student teaching at Jefferson High School in Jefferson, Oregon. Even then, his teaching supervisor saw that he "demonstrated a mature, knowledgeable approach as an educator." She noted that Mr. Jackson "is able to form trusting relationships with his students by being respectful as well as humorous." He "has a positive command of the classroom and has always presented himself as confident." "Beyond his strategies of differentiation and multiple intelligences, Jesse's lesson plans were well thought out and engaging. He was always very organized and ready to teach."



Mr. Jackson teaches flint-knapping to students.

These statements are consistent with his references from all three school districts where he has worked. Whether as a Global Studies teacher in Warrenton, Oregon (1 year), or teaching all the Social Studies courses at the high school along with electives in Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Personal Finance, and Senior Project at Days Creek (5 years), or serving in his first assignment as Principal at Glendale High School (2 years), his commitment to serving people and attending to details has distinguished him as an educator and a person.



Mr. Jackson with students from Days Creek Charter School. His daughter is on his shoulders.



While working full-time at Days Creek, Mr. Jackson completed a Master's Degree Program in Education Administration at Concordia University – Portland, and obtained his Initial Administrator License in 2018. Opportunity called him to Glendale where he has gained two years of in-the-trenches administrative experience.

One of the questions we asked all candidates who interviewed for the principal position was “Why Butte Falls?” Mr. Jackson's response was clear and straightforward. He said he had been hearing about our school for several years. He was impressed by our focus on hands-on learning and natural resources. He said he lives on the Tiller-Trail Hwy and that his family activities have brought them more to the Rogue Valley than to the Umpqua Valley in recent years. He noted that our district was the only job opening he applied for in the region. Of course, the clincher was that he discovered the Medco Ponds for fishing and enjoys bringing his young daughter there. He also said that he believes our school is a place where he can grow, learn, and serve others for many years.

About two months ago, I surveyed our staff about the upcoming process for hiring a new principal. They have a unique perspective as they not only serve our students and families, but some of them are also parents of our students. Essentially, I asked them: “What are the things that are of most concern to you as we recruit and select a new Principal for Butte Falls Charter School?”

In a nutshell here is what I gleaned from their responses. Select someone who wants to be here for a while. Make sure they have had some credible teaching experience, preferably in a small school district or two. They need to like people. They need to be a good listener and connect with students, staff and our community. Choose someone who understands the challenges that many of our students have experienced, someone who is solid on special education and the importance of effective academic interventions and social-emotional supports. Find us a leader who is consistently fair, someone who can see the big picture while helping us attend to the day-to-day work. Hire a good communicator who can trust that we are working hard to do our jobs well and who can also provide constructive feedback in a professional credible manner. Bring us a thoughtful, kind, honest, firm, positive, trustworthy, encouraging leader.

Mission Accomplished! Mr. Jesse Jackson is that person. He was the unanimous first-choice finalist of our interview team. His references check out with no discrepancies. This is the only place he was willing to apply for as he had opportunities in his current district. He wants to be here. And he knows where the good fishing is!

Reporting for Duty! Mr. Jackson is completing the school year in his current role as the Principal at Glendale Middle and High School. In July, he will transition from Glendale to Butte Falls, and in August he will work with staff as we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. We are hopeful that we will be able to open in September with all-day, every-day on-site learning for all students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 12.

He is very excited to meet our students, our staff, our families, and our community. When you run into him in the coming year, give him a warm Butte Falls welcome! Exciting things lie ahead for our students, staff and community!



A Principal who can do the heavy lifting with a smile. Career/Technical Educations Day in Glendale.