UPES Welcomes New Principal for 2022-2023 School Year

Jackie Powell is thrilled to join the Ute Pass Elementary School and Manitou Springs School District team! Jackie grew up in Illinois, where she attended Eastern Illinois University for a bachelor’s degree in special education with a dual endorsement in early childhood education and early childhood special education. After teaching for six years in Illinois, Jackie moved to the Ute Pass area. She then obtained a gifted education specialist license and a master’s degree in culturally linguistically diverse education (CLDE) from CSU-Pueblo. Jackie received her principal’s licensure through what is now called Western Colorado University.

She has taught special education, general education and Title 1 Intervention, and served as a literacy and special education coach. In 2018, Jackie began her career in administration as an assistant principal at Venetucci Elementary School. After two years in that role, she became the principal at Sunrise Elementary in Widefield School District 3, where she has served since 2020.

Jackie is a strong advocate for environmental education and outdoor education, while cultivating authentic relationships built on deep levels of trust. Her own children have attended Ute Pass Elementary since 2017, and she believes wholeheartedly in the benefit of children learning in the beautiful Colorado sunshine as much as possible! With extensive training in restorative practices, trauma-informed teaching and instructional strategies, Jackie is ecstatic to collaborate and grow with the Ute Pass Elementary and Manitou Springs School District staff.

When not playing basketball at recess, spending time in classrooms or appreciating the incredible work educators do on a daily basis, you can find her reading, hiking or camping — sometimes all at once! Jackie looks forward to using her core values and beliefs to extend the great work already happening at Ute Pass Elementary.

MSHS Teacher Receives High Honor

A former student of MSHS teacher Terrence Batson nominated him for an honor from the National Society for High School Scholars. The NSHSS selected Mr. Batson as the Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction due to his outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence. Congratulations, Mr. Batson — well-deserved!

IMPORTANT DATES

Late Start Wednesday:
April 8 and 27

No Students:
Friday, April 22