

Hello Lakeland!

My name is Trish McCullough, Lakeland's new principal. Since I didn't get to meet you during 'Meet the Teach', I wanted to informally reach out to tell you a little bit more about me.

I was raised in Hoffman Estates, IL, and then moved to Chicago, where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Music Education. After graduating in 2006, I moved to Texas and was an assistant band director, color guard coach, private woodwind instructor, and guitar teacher. While teaching music, I saw a need for more activities to meet the needs of our students with special needs, so I created music programs that focused on movement, rhythms, and feelings. After three years of teaching music, I changed my career path to special education and took a second job as a physical therapy technician to learn more about students with physical disabilities.



In 2009, I moved from Texas to Chicago and started working with students with Autism. After four years in the classroom, I became the Assistant Principal and earned my Master's degree in Educational Leadership. In this position, I worked with staff to support student needs by implementing an essential curriculum, promoting life skills, community outings and independence for students of all ages.



After two years as an Assistant Principal, I moved to a public school in Northern Illinois to learn more about special education law and student rights.

After working with this school, I had the opportunity to move to the south side of Chicago and become the Principal of a therapeutic day school. For four years, I directly supervised student safety, behavior interventions, individual education plans, parent meetings, building maintenance, and curriculum and design, while maintaining parent, student, staff, and district relationships.

During this time, I became close with my students, families, and staff and started working on my Doctoral degree in Special Education with a focus on restorative practices within the classroom to support student learning. In March of this year, my husband (Todd) and I started talking about moving to Wisconsin, but I was torn because I was committed to continuing to grow with my current school, at the time. That was, until I started reading up about Lakeland. After learning about the students, staff, administration, resources, and the community of Walworth County, I knew that this is where I wanted to be. This is where I wanted to call home.

When I was called with the offer to be Lakeland's principal, I was honored and very excited to join this amazing team.



I am thrilled to be here, working with your children and look forward to positively contributing to the program through the building of relationships, implementation of curriculum, programming, and behavioral support as we grow as a school team.

More personally, My husband and I have two daughters (Emily and Hailey) and two cats (Michael and Dwight). We live in Waterford., WI. I love to build and collect Legos, some of which are in my office at school. My family has a farm in Missouri and I love to feed the pigs and cows, as well as collect chicken eggs. Some of my favorite movies are Lord of the Rings, The Avengers, and Star Wars. I enjoy going to the beach and riding my bike on the trails near our new home! I look forward to a great year and getting to know everyone better.

Trish McCullough