



August 31, 2021

Hello, Enterprise - we can do this, **together!**

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as I will be serving as your new Interim Elementary Principal. I am excited to be back “home” in Wallowa County. After graduating from Joseph High School in 2002, I set off for college and beyond. Nearly 20 years later, I have been afforded this tremendous opportunity to move my family back to “the county”.

I bring with me three (nearly four) beautiful children: Sophia (10), Annabel (7), and Hyder (5). My wife Vanessa (formerly Vanessa Johnson) and I are expecting our fourth child at the end of November. We are beyond thrilled to set off on this adventure of raising our family in the same amazing place we both grew up.

After working in Administration as the regional capacity builder for student success (school improvement with ODE/IMESD), Dean of Students (vice principal), and most recently District Director, I am excited to work with the already dynamic team in the Enterprise School District.

Many of you have already made my family and I feel right at home. Picking up old friendships right where they left off almost two decades ago has been a great and somewhat surreal experience. Wallowa County truly is an amazing place.

I believe children need to be loved and know school is a safe place where they are understood in order for them to thrive. We have a number of new programs this year that will help us achieve these aspirations **together**. We have a new Social Emotional Prevention Specialist, Amy Stangel. Amy will help our students build skills that may be lagging so that the kids can self-regulate and stay in class as well as have a place/person to go to if they need to work-through Social Emotional issues/concerns. We also have a new coordinator, Dakota Hull. Dakota will help us improve attendance through relationship building, community connection and analyzing meaningful data to take purposeful steps to engage students/families in a way that will help kids attend school as regularly as possible. These two new programs will help the entire staff be more trauma informed. We will also be working **together** with Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness and Wallowa ESD to develop the skills necessary for our staff to be more trauma-responsive as well as coordinate higher-level care when necessary. Supporting the needs of our kids takes a **unified** effort with many community partners as well as a **unification** of efforts with the entire community **together** with the school district.

This year will be challenging as we navigate all things COVID and try the best we can to move toward what we once knew as “normal”. We have many rules and regulations that we will need to navigate. We can only preserve the best possible outcome for our kids if we negotiate these complex and sometimes hard to comprehend guidelines/regulations **together**. With mutual respect, compassion, and empathy we will achieve great things for our kids. We can only accomplish this if we all work **together** so our kids are able to learn, grow and know they are loved and appreciated in our school and in our community.

As a parent of three Enterprise students, I look forward to accomplishing great things with the Enterprise community. I also look forward to individual conversations with you as concerns or needs arise so that we can best support our kids **together**.

Respectfully,

Landon Braden
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