

New Leadership in Our Schools

The start of the 2021-2022 school year brought with it some changes in leadership within the schools. We are blessed with the best school administrators and look forward to a fantastic year in all three schools.

Larry Bolin is the new principal at KDS DAR High School. Last year, Mr. Bolin served as assistant principal in the High School, and prior to that he was a history teacher at the Middle School for 12 years as well as Varsity Softball Coach. He fills the position vacated by Marsha Mitchell who left to accept a principal position in another school system. Mr. Bolin holds a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Athens State University and a Master's in instructional leadership from Jacksonville State University. He and his wife Jenny Bolin, a first grade teacher at KDS DAR Elementary School, reside in Grant with their daughter Kate, a KDS senior. They have two adult children as well. Upon his appointment as KDS High School principal, Mr. Bolin said, "I am blessed to be chosen as the principal of KDS DAR High School. I have an awesome faculty and staff to help me ensure that the students at KDS get the best education possible. Go Patriots!"



Pictured, from the left, are High School Assistant Principal Brandon Edwards and Principal Larry Bolin

Brandon Edwards was recently hired to replace Mr. Bolin as assistant principal in the High School. Mr. Edwards has been at KDS since 2003, working in all three schools as a physical education teacher. He was most recently teaching High School P.E. and health and serving as Varsity Girls Basketball Coach. He earned his Bachelor's degree in physical education from Athens State University, and a Master's degree in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama. A 1997 KDS graduate, he and his wife Jessica, also a KDS graduate (1998), have three sons – Cole, a KDS senior; Ethan, a KDS 5th grader; and Tucker, who is two-years-old. Brandon states, "I'm looking forward to this year and am grateful for this new opportunity. We have great students and a tremendous faculty that I have the pleasure of working with."

Tim Isbill remains as principal in the Middle School, but he gains a new assistant principal. Jennifer Morrison comes to KDS from Douglas High School where she was serving as assistant principal previously. She attained a Bachelor's degree in English and secondary education from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and a Master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Alabama. Jennifer and her husband, Todd, a 2003 KDS graduate, live in Grant with their two daughters – Madi, an 11-year-old 6th grader; and Averi, a 6-year-old 1st grader. She said, "I am so excited to be at KDS DAR! I am with my kids, close to home, and within my community. I feel like this is a great move for my family and me to have the opportunity to work with the DAR family."



From the left, Middle School Principal Tim Isbill and Assistant Principal Jennifer Morrison

Former Middle School assistant principal Cilia Smith has taken over the position of Elementary School principal, a post left vacant with the retirement of Dr. Tenna Anderton at the end of last school year. Mrs. Smith has been at KDS for two and a half years. She came to KDS from Oneonta City Schools where she was the high school counselor and system-wide counselor coordinator. She holds a B.S. in music education from the University of North Alabama, a Master's degree in school counseling from the University of West Alabama, a Master's degree in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama, and an Educational Specialist degree in educational administration from the University of West Alabama. Mrs. Smith's husband Dustin is a biology instructor at Snead State Community College and pastor at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Asbury. Their daughter Catherine is a Kindergartener at KDS. On her appointment to the position of KDS DAR Elementary School principal, she said, "I am very humbled and honored to introduce myself as the new KDS DAR Elementary School principal. My first days in this role have been nothing less than AMAZING and FUN! The support of the teachers, community, and the DAR administration office has made my transition smooth. Looking forward to a great school year. Go Patriots!"



*KDS DAR Elementary School
Principal Cilia Smith*