

Tac Titooqan Article
May 2018

Welcoming New Staff to the Lapwai School District

After a year without music instruction while we searched for the best candidate possible, music is returning to the Lapwai School District. Join us in welcoming Emma Shaffer who has been selected to teach music next year. This University of Idaho graduate is joining us from the Nyssa School District in Nyssa, Oregon. Her goal was to return to Idaho to be closer to family. Emma shared she is willing to be challenged not only to grow, but to push herself as a teacher to instruct students to her absolute best ability. This engaging music educator is an excellent match for our talented students.

Thomas Tucker, a new graduate from Boise State University, has been recruited for math instruction next year at Lapwai Middle-High School. This Orofino native shared his goal is to increase excitement for learning, specifically in mathematics. Thomas is replacing Ken Kessler who is semi-retiring to pursue new challenges.

Valerie Ridinger, Lapwai Middle-High School science teacher, is also leaving the district to relocate to southern Idaho where her husband has found employment. Jake Genthos, a recruit from the Lewiston School District, will be filling this role. This Lewis-Clark State College and Texas Tech University graduate has earned endorsements in both natural and biological sciences. Jake shared his passion for the sciences includes instilling skills of inquiry, critical thinking, and systemic problem solving with his students.

Please join us in welcoming these new educators to the Lapwai School District. We were incredibly fortunate to find qualified candidates for these extremely hard to fill positions.