



060811-Principals

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## NEW PRINCIPALS APPOINTED TO LEAD THREE WJCC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

(For larger versions of the photo, please visit the W-JCC "Press Room" by clicking [HERE](#))

**Williamsburg, VA, June 8**

– Three WJCC elementary schools will have new principals for the 2011-12 school year: One who has been with WJCC since 2005, and two others who will bring experience from principalships in Georgia and Maryland.



*Kim Pickles*



*Paula Huffman*



*Scott Thorpe*

**Kimberly O. Pickles**, who has 15 years of experience as an instructor and administrator including the last six years with WJCC, is appointed principal at Stonehouse Elementary School. Ms. Pickles assumes the position vacated by Elizabeth Beckhouse, who announced her retirement after the 2010-11 school year.

**Paula M. Huffman**, currently principal at Garrison Mill Elementary School in Cobb County, GA, is appointed principal of Blayton Elementary School. Ms. Huffman replaces Dr. Jeffrey Carroll, who will begin his new responsibilities as assistant principal at Lafayette High School for the 2011-12 school year.

**Scott D. Thorpe**, currently serving as principal of Chipman Elementary School in Wicomico County in Maryland, is appointed principal of Matthew Whaley Elementary School. Mr. Thorpe replaces Kathleen Noonan, who also announced her retirement at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year.

(MORE)

## Principals

Page 2

“Our new principals will bring a combined 55 years of instructional and administrative experience to their new responsibilities, including distinguished records of leadership and achievement,” noted WJCC Superintendent Dr. Steven M. Constantino. “We are privileged to have them join our team, and look forward to working with them in the coming school year.”

Ms. Pickles joined WJCC in 2005 as assistant principal of Toano Middle School after serving for eight years as a special education instructor with Newport News and Norfolk public schools. After serving as interim principal at Toano for the 2006-07 school year, she was appointed assistant principal at Matoaka Elementary School, where she served for three years. For the past year, she has served as assistant principal at D.J. Montague Elementary School.

She is a member of the Virginia and National Associations of Elementary School Principals, and received the Superintendent’s Starfish Award in 2007 in recognition of her efforts as Toano’s interim principal. Last fall, she was a presenter at the Consortium for Research on Educational Accountability and Teacher Evaluation (CREATE) conference of the National Evaluation Institute, where her topic was “The Legal Aspects of Documentation in Teacher Evaluation.”

Ms. Pickles began her studies in general education at Western Carolina University (NC) in 1995, eventually earning a bachelor’s degree in special education from East Carolina University in Greenville, NC, in 1997, and a master’s degree in educational administration from Old Dominion University in 2004. She is currently pursuing doctor of education degree at the College of William & Mary with a major in educational policy, planning and leadership.

Paula Huffman has served as principal at Garrison Mill Elementary since 2008, during which time she led the school to Georgia’s Gold and Platinum awards in 2009 and 2010 respectively, the highest academic achievement awards available in Georgia. Georgia schools earn the Platinum Award when 98 percent or more of the students meet or exceed state academic standards.

From 2004 to 2008, she served as assistant principal at Rocky Mount and Garrison Mill elementary schools in the Cobb County system. From 1997 to 2004, she served as media specialist in Cobb County’s Nicholson Elementary School, where she was voted Teacher of the Year in 2000-01.

From 1990 to 1997, she was employed by the Coweta County School System in Senoia, GA, where she served as media specialist and as a second and third grade instructor.

(MORE)

## Principals

Page 3

Huffman earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Berry College in Mount Berry, GA, in 1990, graduating *magna cum laude*. She earned a master's degree in library media from Georgia State University in 1994, and her specialist degree in school administration in 2002 from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN.

Before serving for the past year as principal at Chipman Elementary School, Scott Thorpe served as principal of Pemberton Elementary School in Wicomico County, MD, for six years, where he led the school to continuous improvement in test scores for five consecutive years. In 2003, he received the Governor's Citation for Administrator with Achievement in Gifted Education, and has made several presentations on teaching the gifted learner, including "Smart Kids With Learning Difficulties" (2009) and "Reaching the Accelerated Learner" (2008).

From 1999 to 2004, Mr. Thorpe served as assistant principal at Wicomico's Northwestern, West Salisbury and Pemberton elementary schools. He began his career in 1992 as an instructor at Lunenburg (VA) County's Lunenburg Middle School through 1994, and as an elementary instructor at Wicomico County's East Salisbury Elementary from 1994 to 1999.

Thorpe earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Shippensburg (PA) University and a master of education degree in administration and supervision from Salisbury (MD) University (MD). He regularly attends conferences and presentations on the topic of gifted children.

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