

New Principal Announcement - Niton Central School

Immediate Release: August 18, 2022 - [Grande Yellowhead Public School Division](#) (GYPSD) is pleased to announce that Mr. Steven Ripkens has accepted the position of Principal for Niton Central School beginning the 2022/2023 school year.

Mr. Ripkens was previously a Learning Services Supervisor at central office, but had been assigned as Acting Principal for Niton Central for the second half of the 2021/2022 school year. In 2018, he moved to Edson with his wife and two sons for the position of Assistant Principal at Parkland Composite High School. He also was the Assistant Principal at Niton Central for the 2019/2020 school year.

Mr. Ripkens started his teaching career at Roland Michener Secondary School in Slave Lake, where he taught Social Studies and Physical Education for two years. He then moved home to Bonnyville, where he taught for six years at Bonnyville Outreach School and one at Bonnyville Centralized High School. While in Bonnyville, he taught English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical Education, Career and Life Management, and Grade 9 Health, in addition to a variety of Career and Technology Studies including Photography and Construction. Mr. Ripkens has been an Athletic Director, and has also been an active Diploma Marker for Social Studies 30-2.

He completed his Bachelor Degree from the University of Alberta in 2008, specializing in Social Studies and Physical Education. In 2017, Mr. Ripkens completed a Master's Degree, also from the University of Alberta, with a focus on leadership and school improvement.

Mr. Ripkens is a strong believer in a well rounded educational experience, by providing students with a broad range of learning opportunities to support their core studies. He is committed to creating a learning environment where every student feels welcome, and achieves to the best of their ability. He is excited for the opportunity to continue working with staff, students, parents, and community members in Niton.

