

New Staffing Announcement - École Pine Grove Middle School

Immediate Release: May 25, 2023 - [Grande Yellowhead Public School Division](#) (GYPSD) is pleased to announce that Mr. Steven Ripkens has accepted the position of Principal of École Pine Grove Middle School (PGMS) beginning the 2023/2024 school year. He has been the Principal of Niton Central School since the spring of 2022.

In 2018, Mr. Ripkens moved to Edson with his wife and two sons for the position of Assistant Principal at Parkland Composite High School. He became the Assistant Principal at Niton Central for the 2019/2020 school year, and then a Learning Services Supervisor at the Education Services Centre for the 2020/2021 school year before taking over the principalship at Niton in March of 2022.

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 a bachelor's 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 has thoroughly enjoyed his experience at Niton Central and looks forward to working with the staff, students, parents, and community members at PGMS in this fall.

