



# Press Release

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## Western School Division Hires School Administrators

Morden Manitoba

Thursday, April 30, 2020

Western School Division is pleased to announce the following permanent School Administrative hiring's effective the start of the 2020-21 school year.

**Principal Maple Leaf School – Samuel Jerema**

**Vice Principal Minnewasta School - Jennifer Kroetsch**

**Vice Principal École Morden Middle School - Jordan Pauls**

**Vice Principal École Morden Middle School - Ashley Zylstra**

Western School Division is very pleased to announce these hiring's. We believe that these announcements send a strong message to our students, staff, and community, and will assist the division in meeting the exciting opportunities outlined in the Board's Priorities Plan.

Previously we had announced the retirement of **Suzanne Powell** as Principal at ÉMMS. Current Vice Principal **Garth Shindle** is assuming Principal duties at ÉMMS next fall. Mr. Shindle is replaced by two 0.625 FTE Vice Principals to meet the needs of a growing school.

**Mike Keith** (current Principal at Maple Leaf School) is taking on the role of Instructional Support Teacher/Mentor for staff new to Western School Division.

The Interim Vice Principal role at Minnewasta School was filled by **Korina Peters** for the current school year.

We thank all of these administrators for the service they have provided to our schools and our community and wish them the best in the new opportunities they will be pursuing next fall!

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### **Samuel Jerema – Principal Maple Leaf School.**

Mr. Samuel Jerema is a bilingual educator with a passion for furthering educational outcomes for all learners. He has taught in both high school and elementary settings and served as Vice-Principal with the Winnipeg School Division for the past six years at Gordon Bell High School and École Sacré-Coeur.

His commitment to lifelong learning led him to complete a master's degree in Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning with a focus on Language and Literacy.

Samuel is a husband as well as a father of two children. His wife, Kerri, grew up in Morden and together they are excited to be moving close to family and joining the community.

### **Jennifer Kroetsch – Vice Principal Minnewasta School.**

Jennifer Kroetsch has been working for Western School Division for the past 4 years. She is currently a Resource Teacher at Minnewasta School. Prior to that she spent 10 years working for Garden Valley School Division and a year with Brandon School Division. Throughout her 15-year teaching career, she has taught many different subject areas and grades from K-8.

Mrs. Kroetsch graduated in 2005 from Brandon University with a Bachelor of Education Degree. In 2018, she also graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Post Baccalaureate in Education with a Special Education Teaching Certificate.

Jennifer grew up in Brandon and now lives in Morden with her husband Curt, and their three kids. She has a passion for working with children and loves being a part of the Minnewasta School family. She plans to continue to work hard at making Minnewasta School a safe and inclusive environment for students to flourish both socially and academically.

### **Jordan Pauls – Vice Principal ÉMMS**

Mr. Pauls has been teaching at École Morden Middle School for the past 3 years as a grade 8 teacher. At ÉMMS, Mr. Pauls has worked to enhance school identity and communication through social media, website, and yearbook initiatives. Prior to this, he taught for 6 years in Alberta where he taught many subject areas in many different grades, including time in special education classrooms.

Mr. Pauls has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History as well as a Bachelor of Education degree. He grew up in Morden and is a graduate of Morden Collegiate. He has fond memories of growing up in Western School Division. Pauls enjoys coaching and mentoring, while being an active member of the community.

In 2017, Jordan moved back to the Morden area to be closer to family. He and his wife Sam have an 18-month-old son and have enjoyed putting down roots in the community. Jordan is excited to be a part of the ÉMMS team to continue the great work that is already being done in the areas of learning, connection, character, and communication.

### **Ashley Zylstra – Vice Principal ÉMMS**

Ms. Zylstra has been a teacher for the past 11 years. She is currently a grade 8 teacher in Western School Division at École Morden Middle School. She is a University of Winnipeg Alumni where she graduated with both a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education degree with a teachable major in English and minor in History.

In addition to Western School Division, Ms. Zylstra's teaching experience spans working in Winnipeg for the River East Transcona School Division and teaching abroad in Kuwait. There she taught both grades 7 and 8 while being lead teacher. She later earned her certification in the International Baccalaureate Program and taught the equivalent of Language and Literature courses at the university level. While abroad she also led the English department and was Athletic Director on her campus. Her passion for travel has taken her to 50 countries where she has had the privilege of experiencing many differing communities and cultures. Along with teaching, Ms. Zylstra enjoys physical activity and has a lot of experience coaching school sports teams, as well as coaching community softball for Morden Minor Baseball.

Ms. Zylstra was as student in Western School Division until grade 10, when her family moved to Winnipeg. It was as a student attending Minnewasta School that she decided to become a teacher. Ms. Zylstra accredits our very own retired teacher, Mrs. Lorrie Wooster for inspiring her to take the path of education. She is really looking forward to giving back to the community that she feels has provided her with such an amazing foundation.

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