

Dear Mabry Middle School Family,

It is with great honor that I take this opportunity to introduce myself and share my excitement about joining the Mabry Community! Having spent a great deal of my career in the Lassiter feeder pattern, I know firsthand that Mabry has a rich tradition of high expectations, achievement, relationships and technology. While I know it will be challenging to follow such a class act as Merrilee Heflin, it is my goal to continue and extend Mabry's vision of maximizing student achievement through a culture of caring.

So that you know a little about me, I wanted to share the experiences that led me to this great opportunity. I grew up in a small town in southeast Georgia as the son of a middle school principal and minister. I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in English and a minor in communications. I then attended Mercer University to complete my teaching certification and was lucky enough to complete my student teaching experience at Lassiter High School where I was offered a teaching position in the English department. Throughout my years of teaching at Lassiter, I taught a variety of grade levels and thoroughly loved my time there. During that time, I also earned my Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Walden University. After six years at Lassiter, I had the opportunity to serve as an Area Lead Teacher for two years. This allowed me to support the needs of teachers in multiple schools, including Mabry. After deciding to pursue a career in administration, I had the opportunity to work at JJ Daniell Middle School for three years where I also completed my Ed.S from Berry College in Educational Leadership. I then had the opportunity to work for three years as the Assistant Principal at Simpson Middle School, which ultimately led to my opportunity to serve as the principal at Campbell Middle for the past four years. While I have loved my time at Campbell, I am excited to return to my roots in the Lassiter feeder pattern.

As partners in the education of Mabry students, I welcome your input. Above all, it is my goal to maintain the environment where students, teachers, and parents are excited and proud when they walk through the doors of the school. We can only accomplish this by all stakeholders having the opportunity to contribute to our focus. I look forward to meeting with many of you over the summer to get your input. Phenomenal things are happening at Mabry, and I am proud to soon be a part of the Mabry family!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Tanner