



THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# PRESS RELEASE

## Phil Updike Named Three Lakes JH Principal and Athletic/Activities Director

**Three Lakes, Wisconsin** — Three Lakes School District is pleased to announce that Phil Updike has accepted the position of Three Lakes Junior High principal and TLSD athletic/activities director beginning with the 2023-24 school year. Updike is currently the director of external operations at Memphis Rise Academy in Memphis, Tenn. and he previously worked as the activities director at Lakeland Union in Minocqua.

“Phil has a lot of experience both as an athletic director and as a principal,” said TLSD District Administrator Teri Maney. “He is extremely passionate about sports and activities, and he believes that being invested in the community will contribute to the success of his job.”

Updike will fill an administrative role at TLSD that focuses on the junior high staff and students. Maney said his duties will include junior high scheduling, staff development and creating a system for academic success as well as managing the athletic and activities programs.

“In looking at our data and our needs over the past several years, our junior high students and staff haven’t been given as much support as our elementary and high school levels,” Maney said. “We really want to strengthen academic and social/emotional skills to help prepare our junior high students as they enter high school. We need to support our entire school, and this will give us the framework to do that.”

Updike earned his undergraduate degree from UW-Whitewater where he studied special education and athletic coaching and his master’s degree from UW-Milwaukee in administrative leadership. He began his career as a special education teacher in Monroe, Wis. His resume also includes time at North Fond du Lac, School District of Juda, Argyle School District, Lakeland Union and then Memphis Rise Academy in Tennessee. Updike says he welcomes the chance to return to the Northwoods.

“Having worked at Lakeland – and having worked closely with Justin Szews, who is now the JHHS Three Lakes principal – I knew a lot about the Three Lakes School District. When this opportunity came up, I knew this was a top-notch school, and I was very excited to be part of the Three Lakes group of educators. The Northwoods life is what I always wanted, and I look forward to coming back.”

Junior high is an important time in student development, and Updike acknowledges that.

“Junior high is a challenging time,” he said. “It’s important to get involved in what junior highers are doing and show that you care about their lives as you develop relationships. Being a role model for those kids is important. It’s a pivotal time for students, and having a person they can trust, well, that’s key.”

Updike will begin his responsibilities in July 2023. Charlie Volk, the current athletic/activities director will continue as a full-time physical education instructor at Three Lakes School District.

**About TLSD** - Three Lakes School District is located in Oneida County, Wisconsin, in the heart of the Northwoods. Our district includes Sugar Camp Elementary, Three Lakes Elementary and Three Lakes Jr./Sr. High schools and the communities of Hiles, Monico, Piehl, Stella, Sugar Camp and Three Lakes. Our award-winning district has received a 2017 Magna Award Honorable Mention and has been recognized as a Title 1 School of Recognition.