



Introducing Rollinsford's New School Administrators

Richard Hartford Rollinsford Grade School Principal

Mr. Hartford comes to Rollinsford with over 20 years of experience as both a classroom teacher and principal. He started his career as a physical education teacher and took his first job in administration as an assistant principal in 2002. Following that, he was principal at Northwood Elementary for several years, and in 2016 decided to return to his roots in the classroom as K-5 physical education and health teacher at Idlehurst Elementary School in Somersworth.

Mr. Hartford joined the Rollinsford community as RGS Principal in July 2018.

Mr. Hartford was interviewed by RGS sixth grader Lauren Walker.

Welcome to Rollinsford! What made you want to join our community?

I liked the idea of being able to be part of a small school and had heard a lot of great things about RGS during the interview process, so thought it would be a good fit, matching my own ideas of education.

Where did you work before coming to RGS, and how did that prepare you for this job?

Most recently, I worked as a physical education and health teacher in Somersworth, but I have worked at six different schools prior to Rollinsford and was a principal for six years at two of those schools.

What have the first few months in your new job been like?

I have had meetings with a number of people, spent a lot of time learning as much about the school and community as I could, and interviewed and hired new teachers and paraprofessionals.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

The best thing about my job is being able to sit in classrooms and either participate in or observe students learning.

What most motivates you to do what you do?

Every day is a different day, so my job does not get boring. I am motivated though by the importance of making sure that students are prepared for life outside of school.

What are you looking forward to this year?

New experiences and getting to know the staff and students at RGS better.

What do you like to do when you're not at school?

Travel, run, watch sports, play with our family's dog, read.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I am unable to swim and do not like pizza. 😊

What's your favorite subject to teach ?

Physical education. This is what I started teaching when I first became a teacher.