

Hello Bibich Elementary Families!

It is with honor and excitement that I introduce myself as principal of Bibich Elementary School. I am so proud to return to Lake Central and Bibich to work alongside our teachers, students, and families.

This is the start of my 17th year in education. My teaching career began in the School City of Hammond and then continued in Lake Central at Kolling Elementary. In my six years as a teacher, I taught kindergarten and first grade.

At the end of earning my Masters degree in Educational Leadership, I accepted a position in Lake Central as the traveling Dean of Students at Bibich, Watson, and Clark. While it was amazing to learn from three great administrators all in the same year (including Mrs. Logan), it was challenging to create and maintain relationships with students, families, and staff. I served in this role for one year before accepting a position as assistant principal at Salk Elementary in Merrillville. After four years, I was offered the principal position at Wood Elementary in Merrillville, where I have been for the last five years.

When I heard that Mrs. Logan was retiring, I was quick to apply for the principal position, in hopes of returning to the positive, family-oriented, and children-first environment. I couldn't be more honored to be here.

Like you, I am a parent as well. My husband, Nick, and I have been married for almost 12 years and have two children. Dominic, who is eight, is starting third grade and Annabelle, who frequently reminds us that she is five ***and a half***, will be starting kindergarten. They will both attend Lake Street Elementary in Crown Point. We've spent a lot of time this summer trying to find hobbies that are meaningful to them. Dominic was in spring baseball. He really wants to be in travel ball, as many of his neighbor buddies are, but while watching him on the field, his coach tends to put him in the outfield, where he is usually doing "The Floss" to music no one else can hear. His dancing is pretty amazing so we may encourage him to get back into Hip Hop classes. Annabelle finished up ballet, which really brought her out of her shell, and has expressed an interest in gymnastics. Cross your fingers we are able to get her a spot at the YMCA for the fall.

As an educator, I believe everyone has room to grow and learn. If we are open to it, there is something we can each learn every day. I promise that what is best for children is at the center of all decisions I make.

I can't wait to meet you and begin our journey together! Please feel free to email me at [apetrali@lcscmail.com](mailto:apetrali@lcscmail.com) with any questions or concerns, or just to say hello!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Alison Petralia  
Principal

