Appoquinimink Staff On The Move
We’re pleased to relate that the Board of Education approved the following promotions/hires at their June 10, 2014 meeting.

Moving from Intern and/or Acting Assistant Principal to Assistant Principal

**Brian Bell**, Asst. Principal- Appoquinimink High*
- Master’s Degree-Elementary Education (Reading), Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-Behavioral Science, Wilmington University

Mr. Bell served as an Acting Assistant Principal at Appoquinimink High during the 2013-14 school year. Before that, he spent several months in an administrative internship, and nine years in the classroom. He was named a National Fellow by Yale University in 2008, and honored as Teacher of the Year by Everett Meredith Middle School in 2009.
To congratulate Mr. Bell, email [brian.bell@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:brian.bell@appo.k12.de.us) or phone 302-449-3858.

**Melinda Tartaglione, Ed.D.,** Asst. Principal- Appoquinimink High
- Doctorate-Educational Leadership, Wilmington University
- Master’s Degree-Teaching and Supervision, Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-German Education/Spanish Minor, University of Delaware

Dr. Tartaglione served first as an Intern and then Acting Assistant Principal at Appoquinimink High School last year. Before becoming an administrator, she taught world languages (Spanish, German) at the high school level for 11+ years (three at AHS, seven at MHS) and spent a year in Germany where she taught Spanish, Geography, ESL and Multicultural Studies. We’re proud to share that she’s also a graduate of Middletown High.
To congratulate Dr. Tartaglione, email [melinda.tartaglione@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:melinda.tartaglione@appo.k12.de.us) or phone 302-449-3845.

**Joe Lahutsky**, Asst. Principal- Middletown High*
- Master’s Degree-School Leadership, Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-English Education, Kutztown University

Mr. Lahutsky has been a successful educator in the Appoquinimink School District since 1999. He began his career in the classroom as an English teacher. In 2004, he became the Summer School Coordinator for secondary school programs and in 2005, took on the role of Athletic Director in addition to his other duties. Mr. Lahutsky moved out of the classroom to become the Dean of Students in 2010 and last year, stepped in to serve as Acting Assistant Principal when an administrator retired during the school year.
To congratulate Mr. Lahutsky, email [joe.lahutsky@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:joe.lahutsky@appo.k12.de.us) or phone 302-376-4200.

**Rachel Jaques**, Asst. Principal- Old State Elementary*
- Master’s Degree-Education (Middle Level Studies 5-8), Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-Behavioral Science, Wilmington University

Ms. Jaques is another Middletown High alumni. An educator since 2001; she spent 11 years in the classroom at Silver Lake Elementary, most of that time as a teacher and leader in an integrated classroom setting. Two years ago, she left the classroom to join the administrative team opening the Fairview Campus (Schools Spring Meadow Early Childhood Center and Old State Elementary) where she was lead administrator for PLC teams and a driving force behind the adoption of the “Leader In Me” process at the school.
To congratulate Ms. Jaques, email [rachel.jaques@appo.k12.de.us](mailto:rachel.jaques@appo.k12.de.us) or phone 302-378-6720 (office).

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Moving from Assistant Principal to Principal
Keisha Brinkley, Principal- Appoquinimink High
- Master’s Degree-Education (School Leadership), Wilmington University
- Master’s Degree-Education (Secondary School Counseling), Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-Secondary Education (Mathematics), University of Maryland

Ms. Brinkley has already transitioned smoothly into the role of Principal at the school where she had been serving as the senior Assistant Principal. Her diverse background in secondary education (mathematics instruction, counseling, school leadership), and numerous leadership positions at the school and district level makes her ideally suited to step into the role at our flagship school.

To congratulate Principal Brinkley, email keisha.brinkley@appo.k12.de.us or phone 302-449-3855.

Gina Robinson, Principal- Cedar Lane Early Childhood Center*
- Master’s Degree-Education (Reading), Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-Education, Wilmington University

Ms. Robinson is a seasoned educator with 13 years of experience teaching and leading young children, including 10 spent here in Appoquinimink where she served as an ELA Teacher, Department Chair, Response to Intervention Coordinator and Summer School Coordinator. One of the first graduates of Appoquinimink’s Aspiring Administrators Program (AAA), she left the classroom three years ago to become the Assistant Principal at Brandywine Springs Elementary, a K-8 school in Wilmington where her duties included leadership of the Inclusion Team, facilitation of monthly professional development, Common Core training, and the observation/evaluation of more than 30 teachers annually.

Ms. Robinson will be joining the staff at Cedar Lane’s Early Childhood Center on July 1, 2014.
To send a note of congratulations, email ginarobinson419@gmail.com.

A leader transitioning to a new building
Dr. Gayle Rutter, Principal- Spring Meadow Early Childhood Center*
- Doctorate-Education (School Leadership), University of Delaware
- Master’s Degree-Education (Elementary and Secondary School Counseling), Wilmington University
- Bachelor’s Degree-Elementary and Early Childhood Education, University of Delaware

Dr. Rutter is moving from Appoquinimink High School to work with kindergarteners at the Spring Meadow Early Childhood Center. Certified in school leadership at both the elementary and secondary level, the shift in focus reflects a desire to return to her “roots” in early elementary education. She leaves the high school on firm footing with the staff team she assembled ready to “hit the ground running” this year.

To congratulate Dr. Rutter, email gayle.rutter@appo.k12.de.us or phone 302-378-6760 (main office).

Joining our IT Department
James Brignola, Supervisor of Technology

Mr. Brignola has worked in Senior IT positions in the mid-atlantic area for more than 20 years. Prior to joining ASD, he spent three years as the Senior IT Analyst at Exelon Corporation (Nuclear), and six years as Manager of Technology for the Downingtown Area School District. In that role, he was in charge of all software, hardware, data, video, voice, cabling and infrastructure for a 12,000-student strong district that is similar in many ways to our own. Later this summer, he’ll move into his new role as head of Appoquinimink’s IT Department.

*Proud graduates of the Appoquinimink Aspiring Administrators (AAA) Program.