



John Glenn School Corporation



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Hello John Glenn Community,

My name is Christopher Winchell and I could not be more excited to be back home as your new Superintendent! My family and I have been back since the beginning of July. We very much appreciate the warm welcome that we have received from the entire community. Thank you!

I would like to share a little bit of background information about myself. I grew up in South Bend Indiana and am the son of an elementary teacher, my father, and an instructional aide, my mother. I attended high school at South Bend Adams. I enjoyed playing football, wrestling, and track. I always had a knack for mathematics and I always enjoyed working with people. So when that professional football career didn't "pan out", I found myself at IU studying Secondary Education Mathematics. After earning this degree, I had the great opportunity to teach both Middle School and High School Mathematics, including Calculus I and II, at Urey Middle School and John Glenn High School respectively. I particularly enjoyed coaching Middle School Wrestling and High School Varsity Football.

During this time, I met my wife Emily and we began our family. Our children are Melachi, 16, Gracie, 11, Rory, 9 and Quinn, 8. All of our children will attend John Glenn Schools. My entire family is excited to be back home and are eager to become active members of the JGSC Family. We really appreciate the close-knit experience that a school corporation of our size provides to students and families.

Over ten years ago, I answered the call to go into administration. After many years in administration and expanded graduate work at Indiana Wesleyan, Notre Dame, and IU, I felt the call to seek a position as a superintendent. I felt this call because I believed as a classroom teacher, I could positively impact 150 students a year. As a building principal, I could positively impact 600 students a year and had an opportunity to help in the greater community. I believe that as the superintendent, I can positively impact an entire school corporation of students and an entire community.

Furthermore, I have always believed in the power of building relationships. I have found that so much more can be accomplished with students, parents, and community members when a relationship is built. This doesn't mean that we are always going to agree on every decision. What it does mean is that there is always going to be an open door policy, good honest conversation, and a commitment to demonstrate genuine care and concern for all individuals. I believe when we demonstrate this to students and parents we help develop a rapport shared between our schools and your families. What better could be said about any school than "THEY REALLY CARED!!!"

Two years ago I had that opportunity to accept a position as the superintendent of Union County College Corner Joint School District. It was extremely difficult to leave the John Glenn Family and our own extended family. But the calling to serve an entire community of children and people was an opportunity I could not pass. After two great school years and many wonderful accomplishments by the UCCC Team, we were overjoyed when the opportunity arose to return home to John Glenn as your next superintendent. I am proud to say that the UCCC Team made some great improvements under my leadership including a renaissance of fiscal integrity, seven million dollars in facility improvements, academic accolades, athletic championships in basketball and softball, and a reinvigoration of support for the superintendent, coupled with a focus on making decisions that were best for kids. Union County

Christopher Winchell, *Superintendent*
Shelly Clark, *Admn. Assistant*
Lisa Sleek, *Corporation Secretary*

Thomas Bendy, *Treasurer*
Carol Kuzmicz, *Deputy Treasurer*
Marie Fansler, *Transportation*

Celebrate Excellence!

was an amazing community much like the greater John Glenn area. But, again, the opportunity to return home was a chance I could not pass up and I am so excited to be back home as your new leader!

As your new leader, I want you to know that measurable student achievement is very important. And we will spend time reviewing, reflecting, building upon, and improving our craft as it relates to instruction, assessment, and academic achievement. We must do this as conscientious educators. But, even more important than this is our daily efforts to **build relationships with children**, their families, and the greater community that we serve. Students may not remember every mathematics lesson or every grammar rule that we teach, but they will remember our efforts to treat them with care and concern. They will remember how we didn't give up, but how we went the extra mile over and over again until they understood. They will remember how we cared for them, how we loved them. Yes indeed, building relationships with our students and you will be the highest priority!

In addition to the long time effort at JGSC to build these great relationships, I want to propose an additional goal. A focus on **Celebrating Excellence!** Every day our students and teammates achieve exceptional accomplishments. From teaching children of all abilities to read and problem solve, to the labors of co-curricular and extracurricular coaches and sponsors, John Glenn is a place of astronomical work ethic rewarded by many noteworthy triumphs. Let us take note of all the corporation activities, and celebrate the excellence we have and will continue to pursue. I am certain that as we hone in on this notion, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of our students!

Thank you for this awesome opportunity to serve you, your children, and our entire community. We will strive to make John Glenn School Corporation an educational atmosphere of acceptance and high expectations. I know that as we all work together this is going to be a fantastic and very successful school year.

We will be ready for children to join us on Tuesday, August 13th, and the school year will be underway! It is my absolute pleasure to be back home in Walkerton and serving all of you as the new leader of John Glenn School Corporation!

Yours in Education,

Christopher Winchell,
Superintendent, JGSC