

Dear Learning Community,

My name is Evan Kozak and I am the new principal of the Wilson and Jefferson Primary Centers. I am truly honored to join the Summit Public Schools; it is a dream come true!

I have always wanted to be in the field of education. From the time I was in Kindergarten, I knew I wanted to be a teacher; it was when I was in second grade and met my teacher, I was sold! There is no better job that comes to mind that can change someone's life and have a positive impact on a child.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Language and Literature as well as my Master's Degree in Elementary Education, both from Fairleigh Dickinson University. As a life-long learner, I continued my education, earning certifications in the following areas: Teacher of Students with Disabilities; Supervisor; Principal; and Chief School Administrator.

I began my career in the Livingston Public Schools as a Kindergarten teacher and also taught Resource Room for third through fifth grades. Next, I taught the primary grades in addition to the Resource Room in the Glen Ridge Public Schools. After earning my administrative credentials, I had the privilege of acting as the Interim Principal of my K-2 school. Then, I worked for Montclair Public Schools in their K-2 building where I was the Assistant Principal and later acted as the Interim Principal. Working with the primary grades is my passion and forte.

During my educational tenure, I have engaged in the following work: authoring curriculum for K-2 grades in the areas of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies; increasing writing scores by creating grade-level rubrics and using data to inform instruction; incorporating Character Education into the curriculum through age-appropriate activities and opportunities; writing and earning grants in the areas of technology and STEM; as well as forming long-term partnerships with families and community members.

I look forward to bringing my years of educational experience to the Summit Public Schools.