

# Educators are special to new superintendent

By Brenda Fullick  
Staff writer

Behind in his school work after a battle with scarlet fever, Craig Whitlock recalls fondly the teacher who tutored him as he regained his health.

"I guess I have been touched by people in education all my life," Mr. Whitlock said. "They've made an extra effort to help me out."

The grade school teacher who tutored him after he had scarlet fever was one of a string of educators who helped Mr. Whitlock on his way to becoming Monday the superintendent of United Township High School.

Mr. Whitlock, who moves to UTHS after serving as superintendent of the Wood River-Hartford Elementary School District near Alton, Ill., is impressed with the options available at the East Moline school.

"The kids have a lot of options here," Mr. Whitlock said. "Whatever experiences they get here help them make the best decisions later on."

It is Mr. Whitlock's intention to support the curricular and extra-curricular programs at UTHS, that can help students in the future.

He also wants to be the superintendent "who always makes the best possible decisions or supplies the best information" to the board, he said. His goal is, he said, "I guess never making a mistake."

UT is a step up the career ladder for Mr. Whitlock, who was with Wood River-Hartford from 1984 until last week. The district is bigger and restricted to high school students.

Young children have problems, too, but high school is more exciting because the school is preparing them for a major change in their lives, Mr. Whitlock said.

Plus there is the excitement of seeing students become National Merit or Illinois State Scholars," he said. "Those things are very rewarding."

"It's always fun to follow up a kid and see what they've done, where they've gotten," he said.

He was principal of Dunlap High School in Peoria County from 1978 to 1984. He also was principal of New Holland-Middletown High School in Logan County between Bloomington and Springfield from 1976 to 1978.

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CRAIG WHITLOCK

## Whitlock

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He taught math four years at Jerseyville High School in southwest Illinois, while he coached football, wrestling and tennis.

While a high school student, himself, he was involved in football, basketball and track.

Mr. Whitlock received his bachelor's in education, master's in education administration and doctorate from Illinois State University, Bloomington-Normal.

Even before college, he began working with young people. He spent four summers with the Jerseyville Parks and Recreation Department with children, and he also worked with youths in the Normal parks department.

"I've always been working with kids," he said. "I enjoy it."

Even before he earned his teaching certificate, Mr. Whitlock knew he wanted to go into administration.

"I guess I've been kind of goal-oriented from the beginning," he said. Mr. Whitlock said he believes the adage that to have an impact on education one should teach, or to have more of an impact one should go into administration.

Mr. Whitlock's annual salary is \$59,800. With retirement benefits, his total package is worth \$64,584.

He is bringing to the Quad-Cities his wife, Anne, a nurse, his son, Ryan,

8, and his daughter, Kelly, 13.

Mr. Whitlock tries to limit his activities away from work to his family. He watches his son's T-ball games and his daughter's choral performances. His favorite books are fiction based on fact, like "Winds of War," but having a family leaves little time for extra reading.

He is renting an apartment in the Quad-Cities before his wife chooses a house for the family and moves the rest of the Whitlocks to the district.

"We're not all here yet, but we're glad to be here," Mr. Whitlock said. "It looks like a nice community."

The new superintendent now is getting to know UT's problems and strengths as it faces issues such as the financial pinch, safety work to be done, and whether to close North Campus.

Depending on the issue, Mr. Whitlock says he will be leading or supporting the board. He also plans to meet with community members "who are influential and positive contributors to the community."

In replacing Frank Evans, the school board decided it needed a superintendent who communicates well.

Mr. Whitlock has learned "that there are different opinions on everything," he said. "You don't have to agree with them, but you have to respect their right to an opinion."

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East Moline

Illinois