

## Meet new Hamilton superintendent David Tebo

'I remember what it's like to be in the classroom'

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**The Holland Sentinel**

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Hamilton, MI — At a youthful 35 years, David Tebo sees his age as a plus as he takes on the role of Hamilton Community Schools' newest superintendent Jan. 1.

A graduate of Spring Arbor University and Eastern Michigan University, Tebo grew up with a father who was a superintendent and a mother who was a teacher, so following the education path was never a question for him.

"It was modeled for me my whole life. I think I was born to be a teacher."

But Tebo said his leadership didn't start in the classroom. Right out of college he worked in the catering and concession division at Michigan International Speedway.

"My work early on in catering and food service, that's where I first got my start teaching adults and high school-age kids because they were the majority of the employees there."

After realizing he wanted to work more with kids than adults, Tebo went on to teach fourth and fifth grade in the Columbia school district for five years before becoming a principal at Keicher Elementary School and eventually superintendent for Michigan Center Schools.

"I always knew I wanted to be a superintendent; it was just a little quicker than I planned," he said.

Within the first month in his new role at Hamilton Community Schools, Tebo plans to get to know the community and as many people as he can, just as he did at Michigan Center Schools.

"I walk the halls here every day and I know a lot of these kids by first name," he said. "I know what's going on in their lives, what they like to eat, what their hobbies are."

And being just 10 years out of college, Tebo said, it's easy for him to relate. He has a vision for what today's kids need to know to be prepared for their adult lives and careers.

"I want to be the leader that puts Hamilton a step ahead of the educational curve. I remember what it's like to be in the classroom. Educating kids today is very different than it was 10, 15 years ago. The jobs that are going to be available for kids that are starting kindergarten right now, they're not even created yet. Every decision I make is based on the kids."

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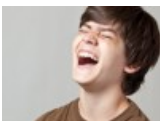
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