

Jeff Ericksen – Middle Level Principal of the Year
North Sanpete Middle School – North Sanpete School District

Jeff Ericksen has truly enjoyed his nearly 28 years of being in the people business in public education, all within the North Sanpete School District. His quest has always been to make a difference in the lives of everyone he meets. Jeff's central core value can be summed up in the words of Miguel de Cervantes in the book *Don Quixote*, "I come in a world of iron to make a world of gold."

Most recently it has been his honor to work with the students and staff of North Sanpete Middle School for six years as Principal, which he has loved. Prior to that he served as Assistant Principal at North Sanpete High for six years. Additionally, he has developed and influenced young people as a teacher for fourteen years, tennis coach for twenty years, basketball coach for five years, student body officer advisor, and an Upward Bound advisor for low income and first-generation college bound students. Jeff is very passionate about fostering a sense of community and belonging. He has worked diligently to balance his responsibilities as principal with a strong sense of accountability and firmness, while fostering an atmosphere of warmth, friendliness, and fun. He also exemplifies and dauntlessly promotes the idea of being 'present' in all interpersonal relationships. This creates a sense of unity and empowerment to achieve student success and provides a loving, and safe climate for all students, parents, teachers, and staff. When Jeff is not at school he loves to be with his family, serve in his church calling, ref high school basketball, play golf and tennis, and enjoy the great outdoors fishing and hunting. While Jeff has friendships with thousands of students, former students and their parents, and co-workers, his whole world centers around his beautiful wife, four children with their spouses, and five grandchildren.