

# #ReconnectTuesdays



*Hello,*

MY NAME  
IS KELLY  
KIRKLAND.

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I am the principal at  
Woodbridge High  
School



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*with Kelly, principal at Woodbridge  
High School*

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*What do you love about Greenwood?*

Being in education is one of the most fulfilling careers, there are so many different jobs beyond teaching and working with students that bring our school community together. I've been at Woodbridge High School since 2016 and in that same way, much like Greenwood, our school community is tucked away in between farmland, yet you turn the corner and we have this big, beautiful building and a small town welcome - we are lucky. For example, every year we celebrate our graduating seniors with senior awards. It is wonderful to witness how many local businesses, organizations, entrepreneurs and others who want to give scholarships and financial assistance to graduates. I'm originally from Newark, DE and began my teaching career at Christiana where there are multiple high schools in a school district. The level of local community support specifically for our students here at Woodbridge, though a smaller community, is impressive.

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*What makes Greenwood a good home?*

The pride and feeling of inclusivity in a small town is underrated and we don't give it enough credit. Many of our students come from generations born and raised in Greenwood and surrounding communities and there is pride and comfort in that, it's good to know that you can pick up the phone to ask for help. You are never alone in a small-town community.

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*If you had the ability to make any improvement to the town, what would it be?*

I'd like to see a more robust and organized program to connect our students who are looking for internships with local businesses.

Work-based learning is crucial for students and offers them numerous opportunities to explore real world experiences. Giving high school students the option to explore and discover what they do & don't want is so valuable and I'd love to be able to connect to more interested businesses and industries willing to offer students more of these types of internship opportunities.

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*What is your current job or hobby? We're librarians so we'd love to know, does reading enhance this job/hobby?*

As high school principal, I find myself mainly reading articles about education and how it is constantly evolving. I read about others expertise and experience and read to seek ways to improve upon how I do my job.

*What are you reading? What formats do you prefer (ebook, newspaper, magazines, etc)?*

I was a history major in college and I read a ton. Lately, I'm mainly reading articles. I prefer article-size chunks of information for the efficiency. I thoroughly enjoy reading about process improvement; I'm a fixer. My LEAST favorite words are, "it's always been this way." That drives me crazy - we need to improve and evolve for the kids we're educating.

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*Do you have a favorite book or series?*

One of my favorite books is, "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson. It's an essential leadership read for administration certification programs and it is so applicable and true. Success happens when people become comfortable with being uncomfortable – that's where we see growth. It's easy to become complacent but we can't become better from a place of complacency.

I had a new baby in January 2022. His name is Owen and we read to him a different book every night. Children's books are interesting and I laugh after finishing them wondering what I just read but they're always fun. For our baby shower, every guest brought a book for Owen's library. My favorite is "Dragons Love Tacos" by Adam Rubin. We love to eat Tacos and this one is fun to read.

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*What actor would play you in a movie?*

Mariska Hargitay. If I had not pursued education as a profession, I would have become a lawyer. I love true crime and I often watch Law & Order. She's a captain and a leader. She takes chances and gets it done.

*If you wrote a memoir, and you should, what would the title be?*

"Yes, That Really Happened" or "You Wouldn't Believe This!" It would be about life and education and finding the humor in both.

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*Do you have any ideas for how Greenwood could be a stronger and more connected community?*

We started a homecoming festival, a Trunk or Treat, at Woodbridge High School where we reach out to our communities and businesses to be a part of the festival. I would love to see more businesses and organizations in our parking lot during the festival promoting themselves to our students. It is a great opportunity for a stronger sense of community for our future generation. I'd like to see all of our community businesses and organizations present – so many are family-run and may have their own children and family members attending Woodbridge. I envision the Homecoming Festival could be a true, "Coming Home", a smaller scale version of Apple Scrapple here at the school building – the opportunity to bring students and businesses together in one place would have a huge impact on all ages.

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