

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS GROUP (ISG) Saudi Arabia

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*(ISG is a not-for-profit Educational System
for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.)*

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“Committed to Educational Excellence”

ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENT - November 2011

Introducing ISG Yanbu International School's Future Principal Effective August 2012

International Schools Group (ISG) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Hal Cooke** as Principal for Yanbu International School (YIS), beginning August 2012. Mr. Cooke will be joined by his wife, Michele, who offers nearly three decades of experience as an elementary teacher. Mr. Cooke will replace Principal Paul Thompson and his wife Leslie Thompson (YIS Technology Teacher) who will be returning to their home in the United States after working with the District for seven years.

With over 32 years of experience as a teacher, counselor, and educational leader, Mr. Cooke offers a consistent foundation of guidance and leadership to support student learning and development. Described as a caring individual and a good listener who makes children smile, Mr. Cooke is currently Assistant Principal of Dhahran Elementary and Middle School, a position he has held since 2008 after working initially as a counselor with Dhahran High School. The Cookes have also served international schools in Bangladesh, China and Mali.

Mr. Cooke is working towards completion of a Doctorate in Educational Administration and holds two Masters Degrees in Education and Counseling as well as an MBA in Business Administration and Information Technology Management. As an educator, Hal Cooke is particularly proud of his innovative leadership in guiding the accreditation process for the first charter school in his home state and although recreational time is limited given his work and professional studies, Mr. Cooke enjoys traveling, experiencing other cultures, and photography. With his typical good humor however, he suggests that he may be “better at *Photoshopping* mistakes than taking a good picture.” The couple looks forward to snorkeling and scuba diving in the Red Sea once settled in their new community.

“Working with elementary and middle school students,” offers Mr. Cooke, “has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career.” “Hal Cooke is a wonderful administrator... kind, compassionate, caring, a great listener, and always focused on student learning,” explains ISG Superintendent Norma Hudson. When asked his reason for applying to serve as the new YIS Principal, Mr. Cooke responded, “I care about people and I care about ISG. I look forward to continuing and perhaps even supplementing the excellent educational programs already in place.” Given Mr. Cooke’s strong leadership skills, work ethic and warmth in developing meaningful relationships with the children, faculty and their families, it is no doubt that Yanbu International School will continue to prosper under his leadership.

ISG District wishes to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Cooke on their new appointments and sends their gratitude and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Thompson for their commitment, energy and compassion in serving ISG and the Yanbu International School community the past seven years.