

Thomas J. Whitney has been in education for 30 years and comes from a family of educators. His father, Richard Whitney, was an elementary teacher and principal in the New Haven, Connecticut area.

Thomas received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Connecticut in 1979. He later received his Teaching Certification from the University of Maine in 1980. And in 1996, received his Master of Science for Teachers of Mathematics from the University of New Hampshire. The first two years of his teaching career were at Penquis Valley High School, in Milo, Maine. Further coursework resulted in administration certification in 2007.



Thomas has been a DoDDS Educator for 28 years. He started as a science teacher at Osterholz High School in 1982. In 1985 he transferred to Frankfurt High School and spent ten years teaching both science and later mathematics. Thomas was recognized for his accomplishments in math education during his final year at Frankfurt High School when he was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics. In 1995, with the closing of the Frankfurt schools, Thomas transferred to Kadena High School in Okinawa, Japan. During that semester assignment, he transitioned to a district curriculum liaison job. He served the district schools in both PK-12 mathematics and science curriculum leadership. During this period, Thomas developed many training in-services for teachers and served as an adjunct professor for the University of San Diego and the University of Maryland. Thomas has been a presenter at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics, the summer DoDEA-University of Northern Iowa Mathematics Leadership Institutes and numerous DoDEA conferences. In 1999, he transferred to the Kaiserslautern District and served in the mathematics and in some years, the science curriculum liaison role, until its end in school year 2004/5. In addition to the many training/professional development sessions offered during this time, Thomas initiated a pilot program for the Cognitive Tutor for high school math classrooms. This was later adopted for all DoDEA high schools to support success in mathematics. Thomas worked for the DoDDS-European Area Office in the role of Instructional System Support as an Algebra Coach for various high schools in the Kaiserslautern, Heidelberg, and Wurzburg Districts for two years. His special interests included integrating 21st century skills and best practices into the curriculum. In 2007, Thomas chose to implement these interests with his own students at Ramstein High School. He stated that being back in the classroom had been a great experience and he was able to use state of the art equipment that had been provided to all DoDEA Schools. As a result of his work in the classroom, Thomas was selected in May 2008 for the Kaiserslautern District Teacher of the Year. In 2008, Thomas was promoted to Assistant Principal at Patch High School in Stuttgart, Germany. As an educational leader, he continued to encourage and model the appropriate integration of technology into the curriculum and provided professional development sessions in 21st century skills, data analysis, best practices and assessment.

Thomas and his wife, Debra, a DoDDS school nurse, have raised four children overseas. All have attended DoDDS Schools from kindergarten to graduation. Three have had successful post-university graduation experiences due to their exceptional preparation in DoDDS. Their youngest is a junior at the University of New Hampshire. They are also proud grandparents of Claire, Logan and Nathan.