Russ is a 1987 graduate of Denton High School in Denton, Texas.  Russ is a son of a retired teacher/coach and a retired elementary school teacher who combined for over 70 plus years in education.  A graduate of the University of North Texas with a BS in Physical Education in 1991 where he was a student assistant to the track program for four years and later earned a Masters in Educational Administration in 2000 at UNT.

Russ began his career at Calhoun Middle School in Denton ISD between 1991-1996.  While at Calhoun, Russ was the Campus Athletic Coordinator for Boys’ Athletics from 1992-1996.  During that time Russ continued to officiate basketball for the North Texas S.B.O.A. where he became a Division II official.  As a result of moving to Denton High School as a varsity football and track coach he retired from officiating in 1996 after a 13-year career.

At Denton High School he was very involved in the development of the secondary Social Studies curriculum for Denton ISD and a facilitator of a Professional Learning Community focus group. Russ received a high honor from the senior classes of Denton High School when they named him the Most Respected Teacher at Denton High School during the years of 2001, 2002, and 2003.  After 7 years at Denton High School Russ moved to Keller High School were he coached varsity football and wrestling from 2003-2004.  An opportunity presented itself in 2004 to move to Corsicana High School and coach football and powerlifting from 2004-2007.

While at Corsicana High School, he was a member of the Corsicana ISD Professional Learning Steering Committee, liaison for the Professional Development Committee, and selected by the Corsicana High School faculty to represent them as a member of the Allocation Committee for a new high school allotment.  He created and was awarded two Corsicana Education Foundation grants for classroom instruction in 2005 and 2006.   He was named the 2005-2006 Corsicana High School Teacher of the Year and the 2005-2006 Corsicana ISD “Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education” representing the top secondary teacher in Corsicana ISD that school year.   As a coach, he was the Assistant Head Football Coach and an assistant in Powerlifting.

In 2007, Russ returned to Denton ISD as the Assistant Athletic Director and oversaw all Denton ISD Middle School Athletic programs and assisted with all Denton ISD Athletic administrative duties.  At the beginning of his Athletic administrative career Russ began his involvement in the Texas High School Athletic Director Association (THSADA).  Russ has been on the THSADA Marketing Committee (2010-11), Member of the Region III Host Committee for the State Conference (2012), THSADA Membership Committee (2012). He is also is a Certified Athletic Administrator (C.A.A.) by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) since 2010.

In February of 2013, Russ was named the Director of Athletics for Rockwall ISD and has overseen an athletic program that has seen a rise in success including the 2016 Class 5A State Wrestling Champions at Rockwall-Heath High School.   Since moving to Rockwall ISD, Russ hosts an annual THSADA Region III meeting in Rockwall and is currently a member of the THSADA Awards Committee honoring the best that our Texas Athletic

Administrators have to offer.  In the spring 2017, his Region III colleagues named him one of THSADA Regional Athletic Administrators of the Year.  He is also active at the state level representing Athletic Administrators as a member of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Sports Officials Committee since 2016.