



## Jeff Murdock, LCSW

Boys' Campus Therapist

# Meet Jeff Murdock, LCSW— West Ridge Academy Boys' Campus Therapist.

Jeff is the longest tenured staff member at West Ridge. He started working directly with trouble youth in 1987 when he took a job as a live-in counselor at West Ridge. It didn't take long before he was found himself drawn further and further into the work of helping teens. He was also studying psychology at BYU at the time. After one year, he got married and graduated with his Bachelor's degree in psychology and education. Even though, he was offered a position to teach high-school full time, he took a lower paying job to continue working with the youth at West Ridge. This may seem insane to some people, but his talents seemed more completely useful when helping teens on a clinical level.

Once the decision was made to use psychology instead of teach it, Jeff quickly began pursuing his Master's degree. He eventually graduated from Phillip's Graduate Institute with a degree in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling. Along the way, he and his wife worked as home parents for almost six years. (They still have the record for the longest employment as home parents at West Ridge.)

Being a home parent eventually became impractical for his small, but growing family, so Jeff eventually became a clinical therapist. Along the way, he also served as a school teacher, school administrator and clinical intern. Jeff quickly learned the value of using accurate diagnosis and appropriate clinical intervention to aid in the work of developing healthy young men and women. Jeff and his wife have five of their own children, and eighteen foster children. Working, playing and teaching youth became part of the family mission.

After Jeff became a full-time licensed therapist, Jeff has also served as an assistant clinical director, campus administrator, and training director. You may have heard his voice as the host of the West Ridge "Hope and Healing" pod cast series and as the announcer for the boys' basketball team. For hobbies he likes to write songs, play the piano and do some acting. When asked why Jeff has stayed at West Ridge since 1987, he states, "I love the people, our mission and the families we serve. Most days I get to laugh a little, cry a little, and love a little more. This is a great job."