

## **Professional Biography**

Mr. Ryan Groen graduated with a bachelor's in Biology from Dordt University in Sioux Center, IA, in 1996, and completed a master's degree in Christian School Administration from Columbia International University in Columbia, SC, in 2000. Ryan completed the Van Lunen Fellowship Program for Executive Management in Christian Schools in 2009.

Mr. Groen taught high school biology & algebra and coached cross-country & track at Central Valley Christian Schools in Visalia, CA, in the late 1990's. Mr. Groen then accepted his first school leadership role as K-8 Principal at Pan American Christian Academy in São Paulo, Brazil, where he served between 2000 and 2004. Before arriving at Phoenix Christian School PreK-8 in 2018, Mr. Groen served as head administrator in the following schools:

- Principal at Calvin Christian School in South Holland, IL (2004-2011)
- Superintendent at Ontario Christian Schools in Ontario, CA (2011-2015)
- Head of School at Sekolah Pelita Harapan (Light and Hope School) Kemang Village Campus in Jakarta, Indonesia (2015-2018)

## **Personal Biography**

Ryan married his college sweetheart, Erin, in 1997, and they celebrated 25 years of marriage in January of 2022! Ryan and Erin have two children, William (born in Chicagoland in 2007) and Elise (born in Brazil in 2003). Will graduated from PCS PreK-8 in 2021, and Elise graduated from Valley Christian High School in 2022.

Ryan was born in Escondido, CA, and grew up here in The Valley of the Sun. Ryan attended PCS PreK-8 in first grade in the early 1980's. Ryan graduated (8<sup>th</sup> grade) from Redeemer Christian School in 1988 and graduated from Valley Christian High School in 1992. Ryan enjoys: spending time with family, reading, road trips, hiking, swimming, snorkeling and snow skiing.

## **Philosophical Biography**

Mr. Groen believes the most effective way to raise a child is in a Christian community where there is consistency between church, home, and school. Children thrive in an environment where they are nurtured to know God and His will for their lives. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 reads, *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."* The most effective education and upbringing is based on the rock solid truth of the Bible and is focused on the person of Jesus Christ, who is the embodiment of grace and truth.