April 2, 2019

Administrative Announcement

Billy Mills Middle School Principal Keith Jones announces the selection of Carissa Miles as assistant principal, effective July 1, 2019, and pending Lawrence Board of Education approval. Miles succeeds Anita Carlson, who will retire in June after two years in the position and 27 years with USD 497.

“We are excited about Mrs. Miles joining the Billy Mills team. Her enthusiasm and passion for kids will be great assets as we continue to put kids first and provide a high-quality education,” said Dr. Jones.

Miles has served as an AVID coordinator, teacher, and strategies instructor at West Middle School since 2014. AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination. The global nonprofit organization brings research-based curriculum and strategies to support students in developing critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas. The program’s mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success.

Miles previously taught in the third grade for two years at Hillcrest Elementary in Lawrence and English for three years at the middle-school level in Emporia. She earned bachelor’s degrees and her master’s at Emporia State University and will complete her doctorate of educational leadership at the University of Kansas in May.

“I believe in students, and I believe in the power of public education. When I visited Billy Mills Middle School, I was motivated by the enthusiasm for students, families, and learning. I was energized by Billy Mills Middle School’s passion for ensuring and providing the highest quality education to each and every student,” said Miles.

“I am extremely excited and honored to be joining the Billy Mills Middle School staff and school community! I believe that the heart of BMMS is focused on doing what is best for all kids, and I am honored to be part of a team that will continue to strive toward this each and every day,” she added.

Built in 2007 to replace its original 1968 facility, Billy Mills Middle School currently serves 606 students in grades 6-8.

Contacts: Dr. Keith Jones, 832-5450, and Carissa Miles, 832-5500.