July 22, 2019

Administrative Announcement

Southwest Middle School Principal Kristen Ryan announces the selection of Mary “Susan” Cooper as assistant principal and athletic director, effective immediately pending Lawrence Board of Education approval. Cooper replaces Shaun Hanson, who was recently promoted to serve as the school district’s assistant director of instructional technology and curriculum.

“Southwest staff, students, and the school community are extremely excited to welcome Susan as our new assistant principal,” said Ryan. “Her strong student-centeredness, ability to problem solve, strength in instruction and curriculum, knowledge of the district, and her experience in athletics will make her an excellent addition to our Southwest team.”

“Susan was the front-runner with every group involved in the interview process – teachers, support staff, students, and parents,” Ryan added.

Cooper served as a learning coach last year at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, where she taught sixth-grade social studies during the previous school year. Prior to joining the Lawrence school district, she taught social studies four years in Topeka USD 501. Cooper participated in Leadership Academies in both the Topeka and Lawrence Public Schools. At LMCMS, she served on the Equity and Building Leadership Teams. Cooper earned a bachelor’s degree at Washburn University and her master’s at Kansas State University.

“I am honored to support the school community and contribute to the positive culture and tradition of excellence Southwest has established. Southwest is extremely student-centered. When I met with students they shared that their favorite part of Southwest is that it feels like they are a family,” said Cooper. “I am most looking forward to building relationships with students, staff, and the Southwest school community.”

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