June 14, 2021

Administrative Announcement: West Middle School

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the appointment of West Middle School Assistant Principal Kathy Branson as the school’s principal, effective July 1, 2021, pending school board approval. Branson succeeds Dr. Brad Kempf, who has accepted an interim assistant superintendent position with Emporia Public Schools.

“I appreciate Kathy’s willingness to step into the interim principal role and give us a chance to fully engage the West Middle School community in a principal search. With nearly three decades of dedication and commitment to the success of West students and staff, and the strong relationships she has built throughout the school community, Kathy will ensure that we don’t lose momentum on our goals for West and help us support a smooth transition in leadership,” said Dr. Lewis.

Branson will complete this month her ninth year serving as the assistant principal and athletic director at West Middle School, where she previously taught math for 19 years. She also taught math for a year at South and Central Junior Highs, now called Billy Mills and Liberty Memorial Central Middle Schools. She earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Kansas and master’s at Emporia State University.

“It has been a pleasure to serve West Middle School the past 28 years as a teacher, athletic director, and assistant principal. I am honored to take on the interim principal position. I look forward to continuing to do the work that makes West best as we prepare to return to school following a year we will not soon forget,” said Branson, referring to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the 2020-2021 school year.

The district will immediately begin a search to fill the assistant principal/athletic director position.

Built in 1960, West Middle School currently serves 626 students in grades 6-8.

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