April 25, 2022

Administrative Announcement

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the retirement of Kathy Branson, West Middle School principal, effective June 30, 2022, pending school board approval. This is Branson’s 30th year of service to Lawrence Public Schools, including 29 years at West.

“I am grateful for the lasting contributions Kathy has made to the West Middle School community. I hope she enjoys good health, happiness, and many exciting adventures with her family in retirement,” said Dr. Lewis.

Named interim principal last June, and principal in February, Branson previously served as assistant principal and athletic director for nine years and taught math for 19 years at West. She also taught one year at South and Central Junior Highs, now Billy Mills and Liberty Memorial Central Middle Schools. Branson earned her bachelor’s degree at the University of Kansas and a master’s at Emporia State University.

“When I was hired 29 years ago to teach math and geography at West Junior High, I never imagined the career I would have here. West Middle School is a special place, and I consider myself lucky to have been part of it for so many years and to end my career as principal,” said Branson. “Having had the opportunity to have my former students’ children at West reminds me of the importance of the relationships and connections that we work so hard to build every day. I appreciate the connections I have with this community.”

“While people have changed over the years, the constant has always been the dedicated, professional, and caring staff at West. I am thankful to the staff for believing in me this year and proud of the hard work we have accomplished. I will always consider West staff to be family,” she added.

The district will evaluate this and other open positions as part of its budget planning process.

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