



## USD 497 News Release

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### Administrative Announcements

Lawrence Free State High School Principal Myron Graber and Associate Principal Amy McAnarney announce the selection of Dr. Amanda Faunce as associate principal, Jered Shaw as assistant principal/athletic director, and Tina Mitchell as assistant principal. All appointments are effective July 1, 2022, pending school board approval. McAnarney will succeed Graber as principal upon his retirement in June after seven years at Free State and 47 years in public education.

#### Dr. Amanda Faunce



“We are excited that Amanda wants to further her professional growth as associate principal. She has high expectations for students and a desire to see them grow as individuals. She has a solid understanding of high-performing schools and a commitment to academic rigor, which will benefit the students and staff as we enter Free State's next chapter,” said McAnarney.

Dr. Faunce joined Free State in 2018 as assistant principal/athletic director. She previously served as an assistant principal for eight years, athletic director for three years, and activity director for five years at Olathe East High School. Her prior experience includes teaching social studies and AVID for nine years at Olathe North High School, where she coached girls' basketball and volleyball. Dr. Faunce earned a bachelor's degree at MidAmerica Nazarene University, a master's at Baker University, and her educational doctorate at Baker University.

“It has been an honor to work alongside the talented coaching staff in the Firebirds Athletic Department during the last four years. I have a tremendous amount of respect and appreciation for the hard work, time, and care they put forth on a daily basis to provide our student-athletes with a top-notch, high school athletic experience,” said Dr. Faunce.

“As I transition into the role of associate principal, my goal is to take the same work ethic I have dedicated to serving as athletic director and provide our hard-working staff with a strong system of support through collaboration and professional development. I am extremely appreciative of this opportunity to grow professionally. I look forward to working with our staff and students to showcase Free State's core values of respect, responsibility, and excellence,” she said

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### Jered Shaw



Jered Shaw succeeds Dr. Faunce as assistant principal/athletic director.

“We are overjoyed to have Jered join our administrative team. He comes to us with a strong and varied background in school administration. His past leadership in intervention support for students, professional learning communities, and equity will enable him to serve our staff and students well,” said McAnarney.

Shaw is currently an assistant principal at Leavenworth High School and previously served seven years as an assistant principal, instructional coordinator/team leader, history teacher, and coach in Lincoln, Nebraska. He also served four years as a logistics officer in the U.S. Navy in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Shaw earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a master’s from Doane University.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the Free State students, staff, and community as a member of the administrative team. Free State has a strong tradition of achievement, both academically and athletically; and I am looking forward to being a part of and supporting that strong culture. I can't wait to be a Firebird!" said Shaw.

### Tina Mitchell



Tina Mitchell succeeds Assistant Principal Jeff Harkin, who retires in June after 29 years in education, including 26 years with Lawrence Public Schools.

“We are thrilled to have Tina move into the role of assistant principal. For many years, she has been such an important foundational part of our school, especially in the area of supporting the social-emotional well-being of all students and staff. The positive relationships she has already developed will be an asset as we work to continue a tradition of excellence at Free State,” said McAnarney.

A Free State counselor for eleven years, Mitchell also served as a counselor at West Middle School for five years and a district prevention specialist for all four middle schools for six years. Her prior experience includes roles as a social worker for five years in Olathe, a therapist and crisis interventionist for two years in Kansas City, Kansas, and a paraeducator for three years at Schwegler Elementary. Mitchell earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Kansas and will complete her master’s in educational administration in the fall at Emporia State University.

“As an assistant principal at Free State, I look forward to continuing to strive to help all students realize their full potential. I am excited and honored about the change in my role. My goal and mission will remain the same. I, like many others, believe education is one of our greatest assets and that it provides endless opportunities for those who are fortunate enough to attain an education. I am most excited about continuing to impact positive change at Free State at a different level and in a different way,” said Mitchell.

In addition to McAnarney, Dr. Faunce, Shaw, and Mitchell, the Free State administrative team will include Assistant Principal Matthew Renk, who joined the school last year.