



USD 497 News Release

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Administrative Announcement



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the selection of Lawrence High School Assistant Principal Quentin Rials as interim principal of West Middle School, effective July 1, pending board approval. Rials succeeds Kathy Branson, who will retire in June after 30 years of service to Lawrence Public Schools, including 29 years at West.

Rials joined the Lawrence High administrative team in November of 2018, after serving two years as a learning coach at West.

“Quentin has used his instructional coaching experience to support the continuous development of our professional teaching staff. He also understands the critical importance of building strong relationships with students and families. I’m pleased that he will bring his leadership skills to

West as interim principal,” said Dr. Lewis.

Prior to joining the staff of Lawrence Public Schools, Rials worked as an attorney for six years in private practice, both on behalf of a multi-national corporation and for the state of Kansas. He also served five years as a middle school math teacher and coached in Fort Worth, Texas.

An alumnus of LHS, Rials earned a bachelor’s degree at Baker University, his juris doctorate at Washburn University, and a master’s degree at the University of Kansas, where he is a doctoral candidate.

“I have enjoyed working at LHS more than any other place that I have ever worked. The staff and students are second to none and have embraced me like family. I graduated from LHS in 1995, and I am lucky enough to work with a few of my teachers and former classmates. The reason that LHS is the best high school in the world is because of the students, families, and wonderful staff that make up this community,” said Rials.

“I am excited about the opportunity to work with a strong team to lead West Middle School and continue to build that family-rich community feel that I experienced at LHS. I went to West back when it was a junior high in the early 90s. Before I was an assistant principal at LHS, I was the learning coach at West, and I know that I am walking into a building with excellent teachers and strong support staff. I look forward to building relationships with the students, community, and teachers to continue the rich traditions of success at West,” he added.

The district will evaluate the LHS assistant principal position along with other vacancies, as part of its budget planning process.

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