



USD 497 News Release

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Administrative Announcement: Lawrence Virtual School



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the selection of Zach Harwood as interim principal of Lawrence Virtual School, effective immediately pending school board approval. Harwood succeeds Principal Susan Cooper, who resigned earlier this month after two years with LVS to accept a position in Topeka USD 501.

“I am thrilled that the interview committee recommended that Mr. Harwood join our administrative team. We wanted a leader who embodies innovation, collaboration, and dedication to providing enriching virtual learning experiences for our LVS scholars and families. With Zach’s leadership, we will continue to foster exceptional virtual teaching and learning in this ever-evolving digital landscape,” said Dr. Lewis. “We look forward to welcoming Zach’s return to Lawrence Public Schools.”

Harwood taught 8th grade science at Billy Mills Middle School in Lawrence from 2013-2019. Since then, he has served as an assistant principal and athletic director for three years for schools in Carbondale and Olathe, Kansas, and as the organizational excellence coordinator for Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center since 2022. Harwood earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Kansas and his master’s at Baker University.

“I am incredibly excited about and grateful for the opportunity to join the Lawrence Virtual School. The chance to work with students from across the state to reach their academic potential is a dream come true. I look forward to working with the amazing LVS staff to serve the needs of this unique and diverse community,” said Harwood.

The interim principal interview committee included district administrators and LVS educator and staff representatives. Launched in 2004, LVS serves approximately 560 K-12 students, providing flexible, online educational opportunities for Kansas students and families.

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