

December 20, 2023

Administrative Announcement



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the promotion of Liberty Memorial Central Middle School Interim Principal Dr. Jennifer Schmitt to principal, effective immediately, pending school board approval. Dr. Schmitt began serving as interim principal July 1, following the resignation of Dr. Anne Hawks, who took an administrative position in a suburban Kansas City, Missouri, school district.

“Dr. Schmitt continues to build relationships with students and families, bring new and existing staff together, and focus as a school family on supporting our scholars and working toward school improvement goals,” said Dr. Lewis. “While assisting the school community in celebrating its centennial, Dr. Schmitt has provided ideas and insights essential to the Middle School Redesign Committee’s work in planning an exciting future for the school.”

Dr. Schmitt previously served the district as interim principal at the former Pinckney Elementary School for a year, assistant principal at Lawrence High for two years, and an instructional learning coach at Billy Mills Middle School for two years. She also taught Spanish at Lawrence High, Free State High, and LMCMS for five-and-a-half years and coached high school girls golf for five years.

Prior to joining the Lawrence school district, Dr. Schmitt served as a dual-language curriculum coordinator at Scott Dual Language Elementary in the Topeka Public Schools for one year and taught Spanish for two years in the Shawnee Heights school district. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Kansas, a master’s at Fort Hays State University, and her doctorate at KU.

“LMCMS is a wonderful community of students, families, and staff. To be able to continue leading our school as we transition our curricular model to better serve our learners is an honor. Our teachers, support staff, and Assistant Principal Phil Mitchell have helped us make impactful gains this year, and we will continue this important work with our students for years to come,” said Dr. Schmitt.

The board recently approved implementing an innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math, or STEAM, curricular theme to engage students and spur enrollment growth at LMCMS. Redesign committee members continue to meet and plan for the fall launch of this hands-on, project-based educational programming. Instruction will integrate traditional core subjects with authentic, inquiry-based STEAM learning challenges. Students also will explore the fine arts and expand their learning by working with local businesses and other community partners.