



USD 497 News Release

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Administrative Announcement



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the resignation of New York Elementary/Montessori Principal Sunny Halsted, effective June 30, pending board approval. Halsted is completing her sixth year at New York and has accepted a principal position in the Seaman school district in Topeka.

“I appreciate Sunny’s passion, her focus on data-driven student outcomes, and her courageous leadership, especially as we broke new ground by opening Kansas’ first public Montessori school,” said Dr. Lewis. “We all wish Sunny continued success.”

Halsted joined our district in 2008 as a special education paraeducator at Sunset Hill. In 2011, she began teaching science and math at West Middle School, where she also coached track during her five-year tenure. She later served as our district’s science curriculum facilitator in 2016-2017 and as an instructional learning coach supporting Broken Arrow and Cordley for the 2017-2018 school year.

Halsted previously taught and coached track in the Baldwin City schools for four years. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Kansas State University and her master’s at Baker University.

“I am thankful for my 16 years in Lawrence Public Schools and take with me many wonderful memories. Not only did I have the privilege of working with many talented educators and serving wonderful families, I also feel blessed to have raised my own children in this community. Thank you for trusting me with your children. They all hold a special place in my heart,” said Halsted.

New York Elementary and New York Montessori currently serve 232 students. The district will immediately begin a search to fill the principal position.

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