

# Fairfield elementary school principal leaves for Trumbull's Booth Hill school

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Booth Hill School in Trumbull, Conn. Oct. 17, 2022. Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media

TRUMBULL — A Fairfield principal will lead Trumbull's largest elementary school, officials said.

Kevin Chase, Mill Hill Elementary School's principal in Southport, will be Booth Hill's new principal for the upcoming school year, Trumbull Superintendent Martin Semmel announced in a news release Friday.

"We had a strong applicant pool for this position and Kevin Chase emerged as the top candidate because of his leadership experience, commitment to student success, depth of instructional knowledge, and communication skills," Semmel said in a statement. "We are confident that Booth Hill Elementary will continue to flourish under his leadership."

Semmel said Chase was Mill Hill's principal for 16 years and spent more than 20 years in education. He will officially start July 1.

"I am honored to lead Booth Hill Elementary School," Chase said in a statement. "Together, we will continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students."

Dana Pierce announced his retirement in February after serving as Booth Hill's principal for 17 years.

During his tenure, Pierce helped Booth Hill Elementary School become a National Blue Ribbon School in 2022, an honor based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

Mill Hill received a number of accolades during Chase's time there, contributing to him being chosen as the new principal.

In 2023, Mill Hill was named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, a federal recognition highlighting schools' sustainability practices.

It was named a Connecticut School of Distinction in 2022 by Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System based on a broad set of 12 indicators. Trumbull schools also scored well on this assessment in 2023, placing seventh in the state and second in its District Reference Group, DRG B.

Chase will now be in charge of the more than 530 students Pierce said attend Booth Hill; an increase from the 400 students that attended Mill Hill.

"Kevin Chase will bring a wealth of experience and innovation to all of the students, staff and families at Booth Hill Elementary," said school board chair Lucinda Timpanelli.

Semmel said he will formally announce Chase to the community at the May 7 Board of Education meeting.

"His passion for student success, innovative teaching methods and community engagement make him an excellent fit for Booth Hill Elementary School," Semmel said.