



## USD 497 News Release

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### **Administrative Announcement**



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the selection of Cynthia Emery, Quail Run Elementary's academic interventionist, as interim Quail Run principal, effective immediately pending board approval. Emery will succeed James Polk, whose selection for promotion to director of data and assessment also is pending board approval. Polk will continue to support Quail Run for the remainder of August during this leadership transition.

"Cynthia's expertise in reading and math instruction, leading engaging and effective professional development, and in student-centered instructional coaching makes her a great choice to serve as interim principal. As a staff member and parent, she already knows the Quail Run school community. I am confident that she will continue to build strong relationships and support educators in improving instruction and advancing student learning," said Dr. Lewis.

This is Emery's third year as an academic interventionist at Quail Run. She is national board certified – the gold standard in teacher certification – in Early and Middle Childhood/Literacy: Reading and Language Arts. Emery's prior experience includes serving as an instructional coach, elementary and English as a Second Language teacher, family engagement coordinator, and special education dance teacher for eight years in schools in Manhattan, Kansas; Washington, Idaho, and Utah. She earned her bachelor's degree at Utah Valley University, her master's through Western Governor's University, and is working toward a doctorate at Kansas State University.

"I am honored and humbled to serve as Quail Run's interim principal. Having been part of the Quail Run commUNITY as both a staff member and a parent since 2021, I know how hard all stakeholders work to promote excellence, equity, and engagement for all students. I am committed to ensuring Quail Run remains a nurturing and enriching environment where all students feel welcomed and safe," said Emery.

"Through my educator and parent roles, I understand the importance of strong partnerships between home and school, and I am dedicated to fostering open communication and collaboration. Together we can support our Quail Run students in reaching their full potential, both academically and socially. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and am committed to working alongside our staff, students, families, and community to make this school year a great one," she added.

The district plans to post the Quail Run principal position and conduct a formal search, providing Quail Run staff and school families the opportunity for input.

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