



USD 497 News Release

Julie Boyle, Executive Director of Communications
110 McDonald Drive Lawrence, Kansas 66044
785-330-1662 / jboyle@usd497.org

August 9, 2024

Administrative Announcement



Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lewis announces the selection of James Polk, Quail Run Elementary principal, as director of data and assessment, effective immediately pending board approval. He succeeds Dr. Jana Craig-Hare, who was promoted to Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction on July 8. Polk will continue to support Quail Run Elementary for the remainder of August during its transition in leadership.

“James has a strong background in supporting teacher teams in examining student performance data, reflecting on effective instruction and interventions, and helping diverse learners improve their academic skills, especially critical reading and math skills. Quail Run’s success is a team effort; however, leadership is a key component,” said Dr. Lewis.

Polk completed his student teaching in Lawrence Public Schools, and then returned to our district as Quail Run’s principal in 2020. His prior experience includes serving ten years as a principal, curriculum administrator/administrative intern, reading and math specialist, and elementary teacher in the Kansas City, Kansas, and Gardner schools, and as an adjunct professor at Baker University. He earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Kansas and his master’s through KU and Baker.

“My time at Quail Run is something of which I’m extremely proud. Our team has accomplished some amazing things during my tenure. We’ve created a culture where all feel welcome, reached some of our highest achievement scores Quail Run has ever seen, and built lasting relationships with our amazing commUNITY,” said Polk.

“I am thrilled to be able to serve our district in my new role. I look forward to continuing the data culture that our district has created and working more closely with all of our stakeholders to further the positive progress we are making,” he said.

Data-Informed Decisions, one of five focus areas of our district’s strategic plan, includes objectives to use data to inform all instructional decisions and develop systems that support student-focused, data-based decision-making. Action steps include facilitating the accurate collection, analysis, use, and reporting of data; and allocating resources according to research-based best practices for student success.

###