

February 24, 2025

Administrative Announcement: Quail Run Elementary School Principal



Interim Superintendent Dr. Jeanice Kerr Swift announces the selection of Billy Mills Middle School Assistant Principal/Athletic Director Sara Murray as principal of Quail Run Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025. Murray will succeed Cynthia Emery, a former Quail Run learning coach, who is serving as the school's interim principal this year following the promotion of James Polk from principal to our district's director of data and assessment.

"We are excited to welcome Sara Murray as the incoming principal of Quail Run Elementary School. Mrs. Murray brings a breadth and depth of expertise, anchored in a child-centered approach, and proven experience in working alongside teachers and school teams in service to children and families, staff, and community," said Dr. Swift. "I am especially grateful to the staff, parents, and community members who gave of their time to contribute to this selection process. We look forward to this next great chapter for our Quail Run and Lawrence Public Schools community."

Murray is completing her first year at Billy Mills after serving two years as the director of field experiences in KU's School of Education and Human Sciences. She previously supported classroom educators as a curriculum and instructional learning coach for four years in Lawrence Public Schools.

Her prior experience includes serving as a special education and family and consumer sciences teacher for five years in the Auburn-Washburn, Turner, and Basehor-Linwood school districts. She also worked as a research project coordinator for a year at KU, partnering with school districts in data analysis, training, and the development of an educational model and professional learning structures to meet students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.

Murray earned a bachelor's degree at Pittsburg State University, master's degrees at Emporia State University, and her doctorate at KU.

"I have been truly fortunate to work alongside the exceptional Billy Mills Middle School staff. Their dedication and collaboration have made me feel welcome as part of an incredible building culture. I will deeply miss the meaningful relationships I have built with staff, students, and families. My time here has been invaluable, and I will always be grateful for the experiences and connections that have shaped me both personally and professionally," said Murray.

"I am honored and excited to continue serving the Lawrence community as the new principal of Quail Run. I look forward to fostering a collaborative and supportive culture, where students, staff, and families feel valued, heard, and empowered. Together, we will build a strong foundation of trust and shared success. It is a privilege to be part of a collective effort dedicated to ensuring every student thrives—always, in all ways. Together, we will continue to discover, develop, and inspire future leaders in every aspect of life," she said.

Quail Run currently serves 424 K-5 students. Our district will immediately begin a search to fill the BMMS assistant principal/athletic director position.