



USD 497 News Release

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Superintendent Announcement: Building Principal Named for 26-27 School Year



Superintendent Dr. Jeanice Kerr Swift announces Phillip Mitchell as Principal of Liberty Memorial Central Middle School for the 26-27 school year. Mr. Mitchell joined LMCMS in August 2023 as Assistant Principal/Athletic Director.

Dr. Swift shares, “what a great day in Lawrence Public Schools as we announce the selection of Mr. Phil Mitchell, an inspiring, student-centered leader as principal of Liberty Memorial Central Middle School. Bringing firsthand experience at LMCMS, an abiding commitment to students, staff, classrooms, and the Liberty community and in-depth knowledge as a thoughtful instructional leader, Phil Mitchell is the right individual to lead the school forward.” Many thanks to the many teachers, staff and community members who took time to give input during the selection and serve on the interview committees during a robust principal selection process.

Prior to joining Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, Mr. Mitchell taught social studies for 10 years at Free State High School, specializing in psychology, government, and AP history. He was named twice as Outstanding Educator of the Year while at Free State.

“I have loved my time here at Central and am honored and excited to continue my service at LMCMS in an expanded leadership role. I look forward to strengthening partnerships with staff and families to keep growing our students’ abilities and opportunities,” said Mitchell.

Mitchell has earned a bachelor’s of science in education (social studies) degree; master of arts (curriculum and instruction); and an education leadership license, all from the University of Kansas.



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