



News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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Seattle Public Schools Announces More Principal Appointments for 2007-2008

Superintendent Raj Manhas and Chief Academic Officer Carla Santorno have announced additional principal appointments for the 2007-08 school year. The appointments are part of a rigorous process that began in the fall of 2006 to fill open leadership positions. An earlier group of principal appointments was announced in mid-May: http://www.seattleschools.org/area/news/0607/Principal_Appointments_May2007.pdf

The additional appointments, which are effective July 1, include the following:

Aki Kurose Middle School Academy

Ana Ortega is the new principal at Aki Kurose Middle School Academy. Ortega has served for the past four years as assistant principal of Loren Miller Elementary in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Her experience includes five years teaching English and History at the middle school and elementary level, and serving as bilingual coordinator and Title One coordinator – all in Los Angeles. Ortega has a bachelor of arts degree from California State University Northridge and a master's degree in administration from Pepperdine University. She is bilingual in Spanish and English. Ortega replaces retiring Principal Bi Hoa Caldwell.

Alki Elementary School

Joanne B. Hill has been appointed principal at Alki Elementary School. Hill has extensive experience with K-12 education and has served students of Seattle Public Schools for 13 years. Her roles have included principalships at Greenwood and Graham Hill elementary schools, Catharine Blaine K-8 and Summit K-12. Since January 2006, she has been the early learning program coordinator responsible for collaborating with the City of Seattle and Early Learning Network-Step-Ahead Preschools. Hill taught in a K-8 school in Chicago for seven years, and for eight years taught third- through eighth-grade students enrolled in advanced learning programs in San Diego. She earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education with a minor in reading instruction from the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle Campus, and a master's degree in counseling from the University of LaVerne in LaVerne, Calif. Hill replaces interim Principal Barbara Nielsen.

The Center School

Susan Derse', former principal at Garfield and West Seattle high schools, will be the new principal at The Center School. Throughout her 19-year career as a high school principal, Derse' has been a strong supporter of arts education, community-based learning, excellence in academics, and family involvement. She is also experienced in applied academics, integrated science and math curriculum, and personalized learning communities. Derse' began her career as a teacher of French, Spanish, English as a Second Language and Spanish bilingual classes at the middle school and high school level in Milwaukee, Wisc., and San Francisco. In addition to English, she is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian. Derse' holds a bachelor of

science degree from the University of Wisconsin, and two master's degrees: one in bilingual cross-cultural education from the University of San Francisco, and one in educational administration from San Francisco State University. Derse replaces current principal Brian Vance, who will be the new principal at Roosevelt High School.

Eckstein Middle School

Kim Whitworth, currently interim principal at Ballard High School, has been appointed as principal at Eckstein Middle School. Whitworth has four years of administrative experience at Ballard, serving as an administrative intern and then assistant principal prior to her appointment as interim principal of the school. Prior to coming to Seattle Public Schools, she taught middle school for seven years at Inglewood Junior High in the Lake Washington School District, where she also coached a variety of sports teams. Whitworth holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Oregon, and a Masters in Teaching from Seattle Pacific University (SPU). She participated in SPU's Educational Leadership Program, and has continued her education in leadership with the Center for Educational Leadership at the University of Washington. Whitworth replaces principal Marni Campbell, who will be the new principal at Nathan Hale High School.

McClure Middle School

Sarah Pritchett has been appointed principal at McClure Middle School. Pritchett has served for seven years as assistant principal at Rose Hill Jr. High School in the Lake Washington School District. While at Rose Hill, she chaired the Lake Washington District's "Family Friendly Schools" initiative and served on the district's safety and technology committees. Pritchett previously held head teacher and house administrator roles for two Seattle Public Schools – Sharples and Asa Mercer. She holds a bachelor of science in psychology from Washington State University and a master's in school administration from Western Washington University. She replaces retiring Principal Kathy Bledsoe.

Nathan Hale High School

Marni Campbell is the new principal at Nathan Hale High School. Campbell has been principal at Eckstein Middle School for four years and spent two years as assistant principal at Mercer Middle School. She also served one year as an administrative intern and teacher at Nathan Hale, during which time she helped develop the school's transformation plan. In addition, Campbell taught English Literature at Lakeside High School and English Literature, Composition and Research Skills at the community college and university levels. She holds a master's in teaching and curriculum from Harvard University and a master's in literature and critical theory from Brigham Young University. In addition, Campbell is a graduate of the University of Washington's Danforth Educational Leadership Program. Campbell replaces Principal Lisa Hechtman, who is returning to a job in the Issaquah School District.

New School

Sherrie Encarnacion-Gonzales has been appointed principal at the New School. Encarnacion-Gonzales spent nine years in leadership roles with Seattle Public Schools, including serving as house administrator and assistant principal at Eckstein Middle School. She also was a high school teacher, staff developer, and K-8 summer school principal for two years in the Bellevue School District, and spent one year as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher at a year-round school in San Pablo, Calif. Encarnacion-Gonzales earned a bachelor of arts degree in speech communication, a master's degree in education, and an advanced reading language leadership certificate from the University of Washington. She replaces Principal Chris Drape, who is taking a leave of absence.

Whittier Elementary School

Cothron McMillian is the new principal for Whittier Elementary School. McMillian has served as a Seattle Public Schools administrator for 18 years, working as a principal at Laurelhurst, Rainier View and High Point elementary schools, and as an assistant middle school principal. She began her education career creating

and directing the successful Head Start program at First African Methodist Episcopal Church, then taught first through third grade and acted as an elementary level head teacher in both the Seattle and Federal Way school districts. For the past two years, McMillian managed GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), which encourages and supports middle and high school students to prepare for and enter postsecondary education. She earned a bachelor's degree in business education from the University of Washington, a master's degree in educational leadership from Seattle Pacific University, and is currently enrolled in a Seattle Pacific University's doctoral program. McMillian replaces Interim Principal Julie Breidenbach, who is returning to Lowell Elementary as principal.

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