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*A school and community partnership that provides an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative learning environment  
where all stakeholders are engaged in the development of the whole child.*

## **WILMINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

April 14, 2021

Dear Members of the WMS Community,

I am writing to you regarding the school leadership of the Wilmington Middle School. As you know, in the spring of last school year, I appointed Dr. Jeanette Quirk as Interim Principal following the unexpected departure of Mr. Phillips. Unfortunately, turnover within the principal's office is not new in the middle school community and, since the 2013-14 school year, the school has had six (6) different individuals serve in the role of either Interim or permanent Principal. Stability and continuity for students, their families, and our staff are important for everyone and this turnover has undoubtedly impacted many things, including priority planning, the ability to advance initiatives, and the opportunity to establish a foundation for change.

After careful consideration of the possible options before me, and with this belief in the importance of stability and continuity, I believe it is important to provide much-needed stability for the entire middle school community. To that end, I want to share that I have decided to appoint Dr. Jeanette Quirk, as the permanent Principal, effective July 1, 2021.

Dr. Quirk has over 15 years of public education experience including 11 years as a middle school mathematics teacher and department facilitator prior to her appointment as an Assistant Principal at WMS in July of 2016. As an educational leader, Dr. Quirk's strongest qualities include her understanding of middle school education and, in particular, her overall commitment to students of this age level. During the time I have worked alongside her she has also impressed me with her strong work ethic and a deep sense of commitment to collaboration and this community.

I have the utmost confidence that she holds the same commitment as do I of engaging in a process of carefully reviewing the current middle school program to establish a framework for change, and to pursue opportunities that are both timely and important as we collectively ensure that the school is best meeting the needs of our students. Dr. Quirk recognizes that the school is at a key juncture and her embrace of the need to engage in this important work, along with her commitment to Wilmington, makes her the ideal candidate at this point in time. She knows the school and community well and can capitalize on the relationships she has already built, while forging new and expanded connections as the incoming permanent Principal.

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I have also asked Dr. Quirk to embark upon an extensive learning and listening journey in the weeks and months ahead so that our staff, students, and families have the opportunity to share what they believe represent the strengths, areas of concern, and important opportunities that lie ahead for the school. The results of this work will be shared with the entire community as part of her entry plan. Please watch for further information in the near future in terms of how to get involved.

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating Dr. Quirk as the next Principal of the Wilmington Middle School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Glenn Brand, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools