



BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS  
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Principal named for Prairie Star Elementary**

A new principal for Prairie Star Elementary (PSE) has been selected. Amy Farthing, who is currently Blue Valley's lead district coordinating teacher, has been chosen to lead PSE.

Farthing will lead the school, located at 3800 W. 143<sup>rd</sup> St. in Leawood, beginning August 1. She will replace current PSE principal Laura Swartz, who will be retiring at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Farthing has a wide variety of educational experience. In addition to her current position as lead district coordinating teacher, Farthing served as district coordinating teacher for literacy development from 2006 to 2008, as a reading specialist at Stanley Elementary from 2002 to 2006, and as a first and second grade teacher at Stanley Elementary from 1998 to 2002. She has also taught elementary music and fourth grade in other districts.

"I am thrilled to become part of the team at Prairie Star Elementary," Farthing said. "I am ready to embrace the Prairie Star Elementary community and share in its history of successes."

Farthing received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Kansas State University, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas and will soon complete a master's degree in school leadership from Baker University.

Farthing is also a National Board Certified Teacher, a prestigious designation earned by highly accomplished educators.

"Amy has always been a strong leader in the district's elementary education program," said Jim Payne, executive director of Human Resources. "Her breadth of experience will make her a great fit for this new role."

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