



BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS
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Merrigan to lead Blue Valley North

Tonya Merrigan, longtime Blue Valley educator, has been selected to lead Blue Valley North High School (BVN) next year. Current BVN principal Carter Burns will retire at the end of the 2009-10 school year.

Currently, Merrigan is serving as associate principal at Blue Valley West (BVW). Prior to working at BVW, Merrigan served as director of student programs in the district. During her educational career, Merrigan has been a math teacher in Texas and South Dakota, a counselor at Blue Valley High from 1999 to 2005 and an assistant principal at Blue Valley High from 2005 to 2007.

“Tonya has a rich background in secondary education, including experience in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, all areas of math curriculum, counseling and she’s even served as a director of career services at the college level,” said Jim Payne, executive director of Human Resources. “As a counselor, Tonya showed real understanding for the needs and interests of all students, whatever their post-secondary plans.”

Merrigan received her bachelor’s degree and her master’s degrees in mathematics and school counseling from the University of South Dakota. She received her doctorate in educational leadership from St. Louis University.

Merrigan is looking forward to the year ahead.

“I am honored to be named the principal at Blue Valley North,” Merrigan said. “Blue Valley North is a school steeped in tradition and academic excellence that I have admired for my 11 years in the district. I look forward to working with the students, staff, parents and community.”

Payne went on to say: “Tonya has distinguished herself in each role she has played in Blue Valley. Her educational background makes her an ideal candidate for this position.”

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