

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Jane L. Westerhold, Superintendent of Schools, 847-824-1170

Career Educator Tapped to Lead Chippewa

DES PLAINES, IL (March 20, 2006) - Veteran middle school and high school principal, Eric S. Bailey, has been named the next instructional leader of Chippewa Middle School. Bailey's appointment is effective July 1, 2006.

Bailey currently serves as the principal of Westchester Middle School in Westchester School District 92.5, a K - 8 elementary school district, located in Westchester, IL. Under his leadership, Bailey's staff worked diligently to better serve the student population. Math test scores rose and reading scores were targeted for improvement. Bailey was responsible for hiring knowledgeable and talented teachers who are committed to working with middle level students. As part of the School Improvement Plan, the discipline plan was revised to provide students with instruction in behavioral expectations and reinforcements through a positive rewards system. Bailey also worked with consultants and grade level teams to redesign support services that would enhance students' abilities to meet standards.

Bailey began his teaching career in 1991 as a math and computer teacher in Danville High School in Danville, IL. Bailey continued his teaching career at Champaign

Centennial High School, where he taught gifted and regular Geometry, Transitional Mathematics and coached girls softball. In 1993, Bailey was promoted to Assistant Principal for the 8th grade at Kankakee Junior High School. His primary responsibilities involved student discipline and attendance. He worked closely with local support agencies and was the district representative to the three-county truancy prevention program. While in Kankakee, Bailey served on the committee that reorganized the junior high into a middle school format. He continued his administrative career as an Assistant Principal of Lincoln Junior High School in Mount Prospect, and the Principal of Red Hill High School in Bridgeport, IL.

Bailey is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from Illinois State University. His master's degree in Educational Leadership, as well as his bachelor's degree in Mathematics and teaching certification, was earned from Eastern Illinois University. Bailey also holds Chief School Business Official and Superintendent endorsements.

Bailey is a member of the Illinois Principal Association, where he served as a Region Director. Working with West 40 Intermediate Service Center, Bailey added vitality to training programs that were offered to principals in the west-Cook County region.

"I look forward to working with the students, parents and staff of Chippewa," commented Bailey. "It is very important to foster good relationships with our community.

I can't wait to get involved in the day-to-day operations of Chippewa as well as assisting our students with their academic and social growth."

Bailey and his wife, Kelly, reside in Elmhurst, IL. Mrs. Bailey is a teacher and coach at Lincoln Junior High School in Mount Prospect.

Chippewa Middle School is a 6 - 8 grade building educating more than 750 students by 78 staff members. Community Consolidated School District 62 educates over 4,700 students in eleven K-8 schools. 673 certified and support staff work together to educate the district's children.