



NEWS RELEASE

Butler School District 53

Butler Junior High

Brook Forest School

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Jason Bednar appointed as Brook Forest Elementary School Principal

At a special meeting on Aug. 17, the Butler District 53 Board of Education approved the appointment of Jason Bednar as principal of Brook Forest School.

Bednar has served as a principal of Owen Elementary School in Indian Prairie School District 204 and more recently as Director of Elementary Core Curriculum and Instruction for District 204. In his roles, he led the school through many changes and initiatives, including aligning curriculum with the Common Core State Standards, developing Professional Learning Communities, creating professional development courses and helping lead standards-based evaluations of teachers. He also served as Dean of Students in District 204, coach, and before that taught for eight years.

“We are thrilled to have an administrator of Mr. Bednar’s caliber,” said Superintendent Dr. Heidi Wennstrom. “He is a visionary leader who has high standards, deep knowledge of the elementary school curriculum and culture and is an educator who genuinely cares about students, staff and the school community,” she said.

Bednar said he looks forward to serving the Brook Forest and wider District 53 school community. "I knew this was a place I wanted to contribute," he said, noting the exemplary academic, extracurricular, and social-emotional programs.

"One of the best things about elementary education is seeing the excitement a student has when he or she perseveres to overcome an obstacle," he said. "That enthusiasm is why I went into education and why I wanted to be an elementary school principal. The amount of growth students show between kindergarten and through 5th grade is amazing and sets them up for success throughout the rest of their lives. I love being a part of that effort and am really looking forward to working with everyone at Brook Forest to help every one of our students reach their dreams."

Bednar earned his B.A. in English from Georgetown University, his first Masters in Teaching and Learning from DePaul University and his second in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University. He has completed coursework for his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and is currently writing his dissertation on the relationship between effective principal leadership and student achievement. He has also served as a guest lecturer at the University of Illinois and Northern Illinois University.

Wennstrom noted that Bednar will work closely with Assistant Principal Lisa Owen to ensure a smooth transition. "I am confident that in this transition, our administrators and excellent staff and faculty together, will continue to provide our students with the exemplary learning experience that the school community has come to expect."

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