



News

from the MNPS Communications Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

For Immediate Release

For more information, please contact:

Olivia Brown, MNPS
(615) 259-8405, olivia.brown@mnps.org
Noelle Mashburn, MNPS
noelle.mashburn@mnps.org

New Principals to Lead 13 Metro Nashville middle schools

NASHVILLE, TN (June 14, 2011) – Thirteen middle schools within Metro Nashville Public Schools will welcome new leadership this fall. The changes include:

Dr. Dorothy Gunn, Principal
Canidra Henderson, Principal
Jon Hubble, Principal
Dr. Corey Walker, Interim Principal
Gregory Stewart, Principal
Kevin Armstrong, Principal
Jamila Martin, Principal
Dr. Antionette Williams, Principal
Tracy Bruno, Principal
Robert Churchwell, Jr., Principal
Dr. Scott Underwood, Principal
Dr. Linda Miller, Principal
Jeff Keith, Principal

Margaret Allen Middle School
Antioch Middle School
Apollo Middle School
Jere Baxter Middle School
I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet
DuPont Hadley Middle School
DuPont Tyler Middle School
Gra-Mar Middle School
Isaac Litton Middle School
McCann ALC
Meigs Magnet Middle School
Neely's Bend Middle School
West End IB Middle School

In addition to these principal changes, **Dr. Sharon Yates** and **Amy Downey** will become Executive Director of Instruction and Executive Director of Middle Schools, respectively. Each brings more than 20 years of experience to their new leadership positions.

Yates is currently the Program Director of Teaching and Learning in Urban Schools at Vanderbilt University. Yates previously served as Program Director of Elementary Education for Peabody College, as well as assistant to the chair and lecturer. She previously served on the faculties of Lipscomb University, Belmont University, Austin Peay State University, Ohio University, and the University of Rio Grande in Ohio.

Downey has been principal at DuPont Hadley Middle since 2002. She began her career as a teacher at Goodlettsville Middle School. In 2000, she moved to the assistant principal position at Wright Middle School.

About the Principals

Gunn, current principal of I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet, will assume leadership of Margaret Allen Middle School. Gunn has more than 30 years experience in education, more than 20 of which are with MNPS. Her career

began as an elementary school teacher at Westminster Individualized Teacher Center in Nashville, followed by time at Temple Academy and Union Hill Elementary. In 1986, she joined MNPS as a teacher at Eakin Elementary and later moved into the assistant principal position at Head Middle. She later served as principal of Napier Enhance Option Elementary and Margaret Allen Middle School from 2001-2003.

Gunn holds a bachelor's degree from Talladega College, as well as a master's degree and doctorate from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University.

Henderson, a 15-year veteran of education, comes to Antioch Middle from dual positions as principal for Memphis City Schools and Adjunct Professor at Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tenn. Her career began as a STAR Math Coordinator for Bramlett Elementary in Oxford, Miss. She then spent time as an administrative intern for Hanley Elementary in Memphis as well as the GED school to work coordinator for DeSoto Alternative Center in Hernando, Miss. In 1997, Henderson joined the team at Corry Middle School in Memphis as a reading and language arts teacher. She then moved to the assistant principal position at Colonial and Corry middle schools.

Henderson has a bachelor's in radio and television from the University of Mississippi, a master's in educational administration and supervision from the University of Memphis, and a doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Memphis. She also participated in the Leadership Fellows Program through the Center for Urban School Leadership at the University of Memphis.

Hubble, principal at Meigs Middle Magnet for the past five years, will now lead Apollo Middle. He began his career as a teacher at East Middle and continued with stints at Highland Heights and Wright Middle Schools. He has served as assistant principal at H.G. Hill and Two Rivers Middle Schools before joining the team at Meigs.

Hubble, a 24-year veteran of MNPS, is a graduate of Murray State University and received a master's in administration from Tennessee State University.

Walker, currently an assistant principal at Jere Baxter, will serve as interim principal of the district's first teacher-run school. He joined the district in 2001 as a teacher and program coordinator at McMurray Middle School. He spent a year serving the district as School Improvement Facilitator before accepting the assistant principal position at Jere Baxter.

Walker has a bachelor's in English from Paine College, a post baccalaureate for teacher certification from Fisk University, a master's in education leadership from Trevecca Nazarene University, an educational specialist degree in educational leadership from Argosy University, and a doctorate in higher education administration and executive management from Argosy University.

Stewart, who currently serves as assistant principal at Head Middle Magnet, will assume leadership of I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet. His career began as a teacher for Transylvania County Schools, Stanly County Schools, and Hickory City Schools, all in North Carolina. In 1996, Stewart moved to Nashville and taught at Whites Creek High School, Cameron Middle School, DuPont Hadley Middle School, and Martha Vaught Middle School.

Stewart has a bachelor's in music education from Mars Hill College, a master's from Cumberland University, an education specialist degree from Tennessee State University, and a doctorate from Tennessee State University.

Armstrong, currently assistant principal and athletic director at Madison Middle, will bring more than 15 years of experience in education to DuPont Hadley Middle School. He began his career teaching Algebra I and Pre-Algebra at Neely's Bend Middle School. He later taught the same subjects at DuPont Hadley before moving

into the assistant principal and athletic director positions at Goodlettsville Middle and Maplewood High, respectively.

Armstrong earned a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, a master's in administration and supervision from Trevecca Nazarene University and is working toward a doctorate in leadership and professional practice from Trevecca.

Martin, currently an assistant principal at Cane Ridge High School, will now lead DuPont Tyler Middle School. She began her educational career as a math teacher at Central High School in Harrison, Tenn., followed by teaching positions at Soddy-Daisy High School in Chattanooga, Campbell High School in Smyrna, Georgia, and Hillwood High School. Before joining the team at Cane Ridge, she spent two years as assistant principal at Campbell High School.

Martin has a bachelor's in math education from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, a master's in educational leadership from Georgia State University, and a doctorate in educational administration from Tennessee State University.

Williams, the principal at Neely's Bend Middle School for the past four years, will now lead Gra-Mar Middle School. Williams actually began her professional career as a News Reporter at WBBJ-TV in Jackson, Tenn. In 1997, she ventured into the field of education as a Behavior Modification Teacher at East Elementary in Jackson. Two years later, she joined MNPS as a math teacher at Isaac Litton Middle School. During her time at Litton, Williams also served as a Saturday Academy Teacher for East Literature Magnet. In 2002, she moved into administration as assistant principal at Ewing Park, followed by principal at Ewing Park.

Williams has a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin in communications, a master's in curriculum and instruction from Freed Hardman University, and education specialist degree and doctorate in administration and supervision from Tennessee State University.

Bruno, who currently serves as assistant principal at Isaac Litton, will become principal at Litton. His teaching career began in 1999 as teacher and principal designee at Antioch Middle. In 2006, he moved into administration as assistant principal at Two Rivers Middle.

Bruno has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Kentucky, a master's with initial certification from the University of Kentucky, and a master's in administration and supervision from Tennessee State University.

Churchwell, Jr., currently principal at Gra-Mar Middle, will serve as principal at McMann Alternative Learning Center. Churchwell, Jr. began his career in education as Director of Bands at North High School in 1976. Two years later, he joined the team at Whites Creek High as Director of Music Education and Director of Bands. In 1991, Churchwell, Jr. assumed the position of assistant principal at John Overton High, followed by time as principal and assistant principal positions at Nashville School of the Arts, Hillsboro High, H.G. Hill Middle, and Jere Baxter Middle.

Churchwell, Jr., has a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University and a master's in administration and supervision from Tennessee State University.

Underwood, who most recently served as assistant principal at Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet, will now lead Meigs Magnet Middle. With more than 20 years experience, Underwood has served as a teacher in Glasgow, Ky., Pascagoula, Miss., and here in Nashville. In 2001, he moved into administration as a school counselor at Bailey Middle School. He later held the same position at DuPont Hadley and East Literature Magnet.

Underwood has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Western Kentucky University, a master's in school counseling from Tennessee State University, and a doctorate in administration and supervision from Tennessee State University.

Miller, a National Blue Ribbon Principal, comes to Neely's Bend Middle from assistant principal at Croft Global Environment Awareness Design Center. She is also currently an adjunct professor for Belmont University and the New Teacher Project. Miller's career began as a teacher of gifted and talented students in Allegheny County, Penn. She has spent time as an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh, a managing partner of an educational consulting firm, school principal, the director of Leonard Bernstein Center for Education Through The Arts, a senior research associate at Peabody College, and curriculum director.

Miller, a native of Colombia, South America, earned a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College. She also has a master's and doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh.

Keith, who has served as interim principal of West End since January of 2011, will continue leading as principal. A former math teacher at Highland Heights Middle School, Keith joined MNPS as a program assistant at McKissack Middle in 1992. He later served as assistant principal for Tom Joy Elementary, interim principal for Goodlettsville Middle, and assistant principal at West End.

Keith has a bachelor's from Belmont College and a master's in education from Tennessee State University.

- MNPS -

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools serve more than 78,000 students with the goal of being the first choice for families in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

[MNPS Media Room](#)

