

June 13, 2007

Judi Kahoun is new principal of School District 16's Woodcrest Elementary

Judi Kahoun, a 22-year member of the Spring Lake Park School District 16 staff, has been selected as the new principal of the K-3 Woodcrest Elementary School in Fridley.

Kahoun was, most recently, the interim principal of Kenneth Hall Elementary as well as the district's Elementary Coordinator of Curriculum and Professional Development.

She has also served as interim principal at Westwood Elementary School, Coordinator of Gifted Education, Title 1 Coordinator, gifted cluster teacher, multi-age classroom teacher, first grade teacher, and sixth grade teacher.

"My career in the Spring Lake Park Schools has been extremely rewarding," Kahoun said, "but this new opportunity is extra-special. I am excited to return to Woodcrest where I spent a good portion of my career and where I have nothing but fond memories."

Additional leadership experiences include facilitation of initiatives such as a professional development evaluation plan, instructional coaches program, Reading First grant, district continuous improvement framework, curriculum review process for K-12 Language Arts, Health, and Physical Education, as well as K-5 Math.

As a teacher at Woodcrest Elementary, Kahoun chaired the school's Teaching and Learning



Judi Kahoun, Kenneth Hall Elementary interim principal, and Elementary Coordinator of Curriculum and Professional Development, will become the principal of Woodcrest Elementary.

Team, coordinated the Woodcrest School Improvement Plan, and chaired the Staff Development Committee.

She has also been involved with implementation of Assessment for and of Learning Practices, Responsive Classrooms practices, guided reading, balanced literacy, and multi-age classrooms.

Kahoun said that her "multiple and varied leadership experiences since leaving the classroom have been challenging and rewarding" and that she had the opportunity "to successfully create conditions for collaboration and shared decision-making among district staff."

Now, she returns to Woodcrest as principal of the K-3 school in Fridley.

Kahoun earned her Administrative Licensure from Hamline University, a Masters of Arts in Education from Hamline University, and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Along with her husband and four children, Kahoun is a long-time Mounds View resident.

Kahoun will officially begin her job on July 1, but is already transitioning to the new position, meeting with Woodcrest staff the week of June 18 for further training in the Reading First grant initiative.

As the new principal for the 2007-08 school year, Kahoun replaces Mike Callahan who, "after two fantastic years as principal at Woodcrest Elementary," he wrote to the school's parents, "will be reassigned as part of a longer-range district plan."

Callahan will first move to Kenneth Hall Elementary where there is an opening for principal for the 2007-08 school year, the last year of the school before renovation and expansion of the Spring Lake Park High School site takes over area occupied by the elementary school.

He will then transition to the position of principal of the new K-3 elementary school in Blaine which will open for the 2008-09 school year.