



FOR DELAYED RELEASE: November 7, 2022 at 4 p.m.

SUSAN BRAITHWAITE NAMED HANDLEY PRINCIPAL



Winchester, VA: Ms. Susan Braithwaite has been named Principal of John Handley High School after serving as Interim Principal since June of 2022.

Ms. Braithwaite began the school year with a focus on student belonging and instructional best practices to increase student engagement. Staff, students, and families alike have indicated that school climate and academic rigor have improved under her leadership in just a few short months.

Ms. Braithwaite looks back at the history of Handley and forward to what lies ahead:

Serving as the Interim Principal of Handley for the past five months has been an honor, and I am thrilled to continue leading alongside our amazing team. Handley Pride carries a special meaning as we enter our 100th year and celebrate the rich traditions that exist here. I look forward to continuing these traditions as well as moving Handley forward with innovation and opportunity for our students. My family is committed to Winchester Public Schools and we hope to remain a part of this community for years to come.

Ms. Braithwaite received her Bachelor's Degree from West Virginia University (WVU) in Multidisciplinary Studies, her Master's Degrees from WVU in Elementary Education and Reading, and



her Educational Leadership Certificate from Salem University. Ms. Braithwaite was an All-American in Track and Cross Country while at WVU and maintains a winning spirit as a school leader.

Ms. Braithwaite was a highly effective Assistant Principal at Handley from 2017-2022 before becoming Interim Principal in June. Prior to coming to Winchester Public Schools, Ms. Braithwaite worked as a teacher and school administrator for 10 years. While she was Principal, Slanesville Elementary (WV) was named a 2016 School of Excellence and a 2016 Blue Ribbon Nominee.

Superintendent Jason Van Heukelum has seen Ms. Braithwaite's leadership in action:

After serving as Assistant Principal for five years and Interim Principal for the last five months, it is clearly evident that Ms. Braithwaite has the skill and passion to serve as John Handley High School's next Principal. She understands the history and traditions associated with Handley Pride while also recognizing the changes needed for Handley to be successful in the future.

One of Ms. Braithwaite's key strengths is listening to input from staff and taking action to improve student outcomes. Mr. Michael McKiernan, Social Studies Teacher, appreciates her focus on student success.

Susan will be an excellent principal because she cares deeply about the students and their success. This concern for students causes her to hold both children and adults accountable in a positive manner.

Ms. Braithwaite's role is effective immediately.

Thank you,

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