



Press Release

January 10, 2012
For Immediate Release

NISD Names Principal of Truett Wilson Middle School, Mike Blankenship to Lead the Opening of the District's Fifth Middle School Campus

Mike Blankenship, who is the current principal at Northwest ISD's Gene Pike Middle School, will now serve as principal of the district's new Truett Wilson Middle School. At the January 9 school board meeting, Northwest ISD Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D., recommended Mike Blankenship, a hire that the school board supported with a unanimous vote.

Blankenship has served students in Northwest ISD since 2006 when he was hired as an assistant principal at Pike Middle School before taking the helm there in 2007. His new position at Wilson Middle School will give him the opportunity to open a new campus while using his talents and experience to establish a culture of excellence.

"This is an opportunity to work with students, staff and the community to create a legacy," Blankenship said. "To open a new school is an opportunity to be a part of something that's greater than yourself. We'll start traditions and chart a new course for the community of Haslet and Sendera Ranch."

Blankenship said he's excited for the new challenge and is eager to get started on the work with student groups and members of the community. "I am looking forward to the opportunity to be a part of a neighborhood and community school. I am passionate about making sure we reach out to the community and make valuable contributions in the community."

As the principal of Pike Middle School, which currently serves students from Haslet, Blankenship said he brings a familiarity to the community and families of the Haslet area. "I'm also familiar with district expectations and have experience working with many of the staff and students that will make up that school."

(more)

“Mr. Blankenship will make a smooth transition to Truett Wilson Middle School,” said Superintendent Karen G. Rue, Ed.D. “He has been a strong leader for us, and he brings nine years of administrative experience to the position. He is an outstanding educator and has a great passion for helping our district as we grow,” said Rue. “His experience and enthusiasm is perfectly matched for this new campus.”

Blankenship has led Pike through several initiatives designed to improve student success. Through reader’s, writer’s and math workshop models to science and writing labs, Blankenship’s efforts have been focused on the academic achievements of students. He has also led professional development and team building activities as well as created meaningful traditions for the staff and students at Pike.

In addition to serving as principal and assistant principal of Pike Middle School, Blankenship worked as an assistant principal at North Richland Middle School and as an teacher and coach at Haltom Middle School, both in the Birdville ISD. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from the University of North Texas and is working toward a doctorate of education, which he expects to complete this summer.

Wilson Middle School is located in the Sendera Ranch neighborhood in far North Fort Worth, and will open in August with a projected enrollment of 615 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The attendance boundaries were set by the NISD Board of Trustees in December and include all of the Sendera Ranch neighborhood and families who are zoned to attend Haslet Elementary School. The new campus is named in honor of Truett Wilson, a former NISD teacher, principal and superintendent.

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