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**North Callaway R-1 School District Welcomes New Superintendent**

The North Callaway R-1 School District is pleased to announce and welcome Mrs. Kenya Thompson as the district’s next superintendent effective July 1, 2023, in lieu of Mrs. Nicole Kemp’s retirement.

Supported by the Missouri Association of Rural Education, the Board of Education conducted a thorough search process of quality candidates committed to meeting the needs of the District.

Originally from Salisbury, MO, Mrs. Thompson knows the importance of ensuring students from  rural areas have access to a rigorous and supportive education. Mrs. Thompson started her teaching career as a Teach For America corps member in north St. Louis, and she’s taught, coached, and been an administrator in the central Missouri area since 2010. Mrs. Thompson taught and was an administrator at Moberly High School prior to spending six years at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City as principal and eventually president. She also served the Diocese of Jefferson City in 2019-20 as the interim superintendent of Catholic Schools for the 47 schools of the Diocese. She is currently in her 10th year as a school administrator as the principal of Boonville High School.

Board of Education President, Mrs. Amy Reinhard states, “We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Thompson to the North Callaway R-1 family. Mrs. Thompon’s passion for students and teachers was immediately evident. She brings a wealth of experience in education and leadership skills to the district. Not only did I feel she would be a great addition to our District in my head, I felt it in my heart! We are excited to have her join our Thunderbird family.”

Thompson received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame. She received her Masters and Educational Specialists degrees in Educational Leadership and Public Policy from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she is currently pursuing her educational doctorate degree.

Mrs. Thompson had this to say, “I’m honored to serve as the next superintendent of schools for the North Callaway R-1 School District. Throughout this process I’ve witnessed the tremendous joy and commitment of the Thunderbird community. Walking through each building with Mrs. Kemp I immediately noticed the great pride staff take in caring for the students of the district. I’m excited to continue to learn more about my new community and look forward to doing what’s best for the students of the district.”

Mrs. Thompson was married to Mike Thompson in June of 2022. Her husband is currently the head football coach at Fayette High School. The Thompsons have two grown children, Deryk and Trevor.

Nicky Kemp