



Nutley Public Schools

Principal –Middle School Introduction

The position of Middle School Principal became available when Mr. Calicchio recently announced his retirement. Mr. Calicchio has spent his entire educational career as an employee of the Nutley Public Schools. Mr. Calicchio spent 19 years as a physical education teacher before becoming the department head for three years. Following his experience as a department head, Mr. Calicchio spent four years as the principal of Yantacaw School before becoming the principal of the John H. Walker Middle School. Mr. Calicchio has spent the last 13 years as the middle school principal.

During the middle school principal search, some of the characteristics we were looking for in the successful candidate include someone who can/has:

- An understanding of a student-centered middle school;
- An understanding of instructional models, schedules, and teaming structures;
- Core beliefs and philosophy;
- Knowledge of instruction specific to the middle school level, including assessment and evaluation;
- A leadership approach to working with staff and students;
- Evidence of building relationships and expectations for support staff;
- The ability to work with parents and the community; and
- A passion for students.

The search process for this position was multi-leveled. A pool of 83 applicants was paper-screened by Central Office staff. From there, 23 candidates participated in a telephone screening. Eight candidates were invited to participate in a large-group interview process. 5 candidates passed on to the next level participated in a small-group interview.

At this time, Keith Cortright is being recommended for the position of Middle School Principal. Mr. Cortright is joining us from the Riverdale Public School district where he served as the K-8 principal for the last three years. Mr. Cortright has 16 years experience in the field of education including positions as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal.

Mr. Cortright has earned a Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Scranton and a Masters of Arts degree from Kean University in Administration and Supervision.

We look forward to having Mr. Cortright join our administrative team.