



August 24, 2017

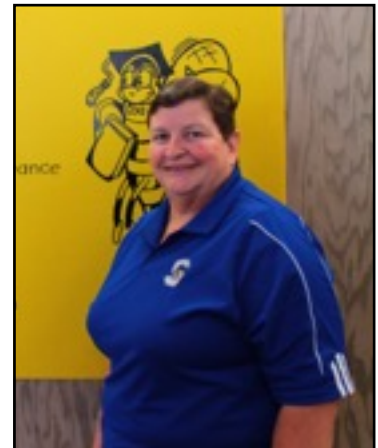
Principals are buzzing about back to school

The South Williamsport Area School District is opening its doors to welcome back students, teachers and staff to school on Monday.

The three school principals are equally thrilled to see their students bustling through the halls, chatting with their friends and eager to begin a new school year.

"I love seeing the kids smile as they come off the bus on the first day," said Kathy Furman, Central Elementary School principal. "It's neat to see them so excited to come back."

The young students' excitement will overflow and they will run up to give her a big hug, she said.



Kathy Furman, Central Elementary School principal



Matt Fisher, Rommelt Elementary School principal

Jesse Smith, junior-senior high school principal, said he enjoys interacting with students in the halls and over the three lunch periods where relationships can be built. The first few weeks are always upbeat which sets the tone for the new year.

Down the street at Rommelt Elementary School, new principal Matt Fisher cannot wait to meet the fifth and sixth graders. Since it is his first year there, he is ready to get to know everyone in the building.

"I'm excited to work with the staff and find out their passions and how to pass them on to the kids," he said.

With a new year comes new initiatives, classes and learning spaces at the three schools.

At Rommelt, the Innovative Learning Lab will be open for all grade levels to experience a space conducive to collaborative work and creativity. Teachers can schedule time in the room for classes, small group remedial sessions and club meetings for example.

“Students will have the freedom to move around, interact and collaborate with one another in this new space,” Mr. Fisher said.

There are multiple small group areas that have low tables and scooches, tall tables and chairs with outlets and a TV that can be connected to any device and intimate areas with hedges and moveable whiteboards.

Up at Central Elementary, Mrs. Furman is buzzing with excitement about kicking off a new behavior initiative called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. In the fall, a committed team of teachers will be working on what the behavior expectations will be for all students.

“We can’t expect all kids to know what behavior is acceptable in school,” she said. “Not everyone knows to keep your hands to yourself, how to walk in a line through the halls and to be quiet when someone’s speaking.”

The new program will begin in January.



**Jesse Smith, South Williamsport
Junior-Senior High School principal**

There will be a new course at the high school called Introduction to Video Production. Teacher, Mike Steppe will be teaching basic film and video editing skills, Mr. Smith said.

The class can be a good foundation for students considering the TV Production and Advanced TV courses, where they create short TV spots broadcasted across the school.

“Those skills can benefit them beyond high school and into college,” he said. “Video production is also a critical thinking tool that allows students to express their creativity.”

With so many new things going on, it makes the teachers, staff and administrators incredibly eager to start another awesome year at South!

###