

[Print](#)[Close Window](#)

RIVERDALE - New principal hired

(by Leslie Scott - Staff Writer - February 11, 2009)

RIVERDALE - With an interim principal in place since the beginning of the school year, the Board of Education has finally chosen a permanent person to fill the spot.

The board agreed to hire Keith Cortright, who is currently the vice principal of Copeland Middle School in the Rockaway School District.

Cortright began his career in educational in 1996. He worked in other districts, including Newark and Morristown, where he has taught health, physical education and different grades in the elementary level. He is currently serving in his fourth year as a vice principal at Copeland.

He received his undergraduate degree in political science at the University of Scranton, a teacher's certificate from William Patterson University and his master's degree in administration from Kean University.

"My biggest thing as a teacher and administrator was focusing on a student-centered classroom, hands-on activities and differentiating for all the different kids because kids come in at all different levels and abilities so you want to be able to meet all of their needs. So that was something as a teacher I was always cognizant of. As an administrator, I always try to pass that on to the teachers," he said.

School Superintendent Betty Ann Wyks said the board chose Cortright because it believed he is someone the kids will relate to.

"He's extremely organized. He's got a wealth of experience. He taught at a variety of grade levels and subject areas. He's extremely well respected by his staff, the students in the school and the administrator, and I think that that's a good piece to have," said Wyks.

There is no word on when Cortright will start. Wyks said the district in Rockaway has to find a replacement first before Cortright can be released.

[^ back to top](#)