



PRESS RELEASE

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Poway Unified Announces Principal for Future K-8 School *Sonya Wrisley Recommended for School No. 39*

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce the selection of Sonya Wrisley as principal of Poway Unified's School No.39 scheduled to open in August 2014. The selection will be recommended to the Poway Unified School District Board of Education for approval at its next meeting on April 16, 2012.

Mrs. Wrisley is presently the principal of Oak Valley Middle School, a position she has held since 2004. She came to Poway Unified in 1993 as the principal of Canyon View Elementary School. Previous to that, she was an assistant principal at Del Dios Middle School in the Escondido Union School District.

Under Mrs. Wrisley's leadership, Oak Valley implemented a School Wide Positive Support System to help students learn positive and desired behavior and to increase their performance in school. The exemplary practice recently won a state award of \$10,000 and designated Oak Valley as a model school. In 2011 Oak Valley received a California Distinguished School Award which highlighted the school's highly collaborative culture for staff, students, and parents. She worked with teacher leaders and the design and construction teams during the building of Oak Valley.

As principal of Canyon View Elementary School in the 1990's, Mrs. Wrisley provided opportunities for staff to learn about standards-based instruction, explore opportunities for increasing student literacy under class size reduction, and hear about emerging technology and classroom integration.

Mrs. Wrisley values the benefits of community involvement with businesses and opportunities to share expectations for the world of work with student and staffs. She has fostered partnerships with Northrop Grumman, Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Sony, WD-40, Google, and Nuffer Smith Tucker Public Relations.

Mrs. Wrisley earned a Bachelor Arts degree from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in Liberal Studies and a Master of Arts degree in Education Leadership from California State University, San Bernardino.

Mrs. Wrisley said, "I am very honored and excited to have been selected to open Poway Unified School District's first K-8 school. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work on innovative, new ideas for the learning environment for our students. I have enjoyed working with both elementary and middle school communities and look forward to working with the K-8 school community."

The K-8 school is located north of Del Norte High School in the Black Mountain Ranch Del Sur community. Last fall a design symposium was held with teachers, students, administrators, community members and staff from the architectural and construction firms to discuss concepts for a K-8 campus. A village-style campus connected with a pedestrian mall is being planned. The grading of the property has already begun and construction is anticipated to begin early in 2013. The school is scheduled to open in August 2014.

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