

April 10, 2017 – Rhodes Named as Elementary Principal

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RHODES NAMED AS ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

(STAUNTON, VA) – Donald W. Rhodes has been named as the next principal of Bessie Weller Elementary School and will officially take the helm of the school on July 1, 2017. Rhodes will take over for Dori Walk who has served as the school principal for the past two years, in addition to her role as Executive Director of Instruction, and has announced her plans to retire June 30 after 26 years of service to SCS.

Mr. Rhodes has extensive experience as a classroom teacher and administrator and comes to SCS from his current position as principal of East Hardy Early Middle School, a preschool through 8th grade school located in Hardy County, West Virginia. While he is a native of Weirton, WV, he grew to love the Shenandoah Valley during the eleven years he taught in the Warren County and Rockingham County school divisions. He was named Rockingham County Schools' Teacher of the Year in 2011. "We are confident that with Mr. Rhodes as the next principal for Bessie Weller Elementary School we will see continued student academic achievement. He has a track record of school improvement and involving parents and community members," said Dr. Linda Reviea, Superintendent. "I have been impressed with his energy and excitement. His commitment to effective communication and high standards for instruction make him a great fit for our school division."

Mr. Rhodes resides in Harrisonburg with this wife, Cathy, who is also an educator. They have three children -- Mark, Christian and Nicholas, and two grandchildren -- Selah and Anna. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and serving as an assistant scoutmaster for his sons' Boy Scout troop.

Mr. Rhodes shared, "Howard Gardner, known for this theory of multiple intelligences, once said, 'Know as much as you can about the kids rather than make them pass through the same eye of the needle.' I look forward to getting to know all of the Bessie Weller students, families and staff members, and drawing on my experiences to continue moving Bessie Weller Elementary School forward and expanding on the great work that is being done there."