

**West Middleton Elementary School
7627 W. Mineral Point Road
Verona, WI 53593**

December 7, 2011

Dear Parents,

Yesterday afternoon, I informed my staff that I will be retiring as West Middleton Principal, effective at the end of this school year. This culminates a journey of 32 years as an educator, the last (and best) nine years as the principal at West Middleton.

The most rewarding part of my job has been getting to know your children. As a teacher, I was able to get to know a child for one year. As a principal, I have had the pleasure to get to know your children over six years, and they amaze me with the amount of growth they are able to show. Each child in some way has shaped me as a person and a professional. As parents, always be proud of your children's accomplishments.

I would like to publicly and openly thank the staff members at West Middleton for their constant commitment to the growth of children. I am so often humbled at the quality of instruction and passion they bring to our school. They have been able to meet all of the ever-increasing challenges thrown at them in the field of today's education. I know this, as I see their efforts every single day. I could not be more proud of a group of people. Your children are in excellent hands.

This announcement has come at an early date to give the school district ample time to find a qualified and suitable replacement, and therefore for me to participate with my replacement to facilitate a positive transition in leadership.

I assure you that I will continue to approach my role with the same passion and enthusiasm for kids that I feel I have shown over the past nine years. Your children are important to me, and they will continue to be my main focus as we proceed through this school year. It has been, and will continue to be, an honor and privilege to lead this school.

I thank everyone for your support of your children's education at West Middleton.

Respectfully,

Doug Rykal - Principal