



# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

July 20, 2010

**CONTACT:**

Tina Veal-Gooch  
Director of Public Relations  
903.794.3651 ext. 1013

**KAREN BROWN NAMED ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL  
FOR TEXAS MIDDLE SCHOOL;  
NEW 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRINCIPAL AND DEAN OF STUDENTS ALSO SELECTED**

*Texarkana, TX* – During their Tuesday, July 20, 2010, regular session, the Texarkana Independent School District Board of Trustees announced new roles and key administrative staff changes for Texas Middle School.



With over twenty-one years in education, **Karen Brown** has been named Associate Principal and will assume extra administrative responsibilities for campus discipline in addition to her current duties as 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal.

She began her career in education in 1989 with Pulaski County Special School District as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Pine Forest Elementary followed by a move to Magnolia Public Schools as a 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher at Eastside Elementary. In 1993, Brown came to Texarkana Independent School District to teach 6th Grade Social Studies at Pine Street Middle School. She remained in that position until 1998 when she was named an Administrative Intern and Site Administrator for Fifteenth Street Elementary (now Theron Jones Early Literacy Center) and Dunbar Elementary. Since 2003, Brown has served the District as 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal.

She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and serves as Vice President of the Las Amigas Social & Civic Club and on the Board of Directors for the Texarkana Museums System. Brown was a Charter Member for the Texarkana Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc. and is Chairman of the Deacon Wives Ministry at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. In 2006, she received the Mary McLeod Bethune Educational Service Award from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Brown has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville and a Master's Degree in Reading from Southern Arkansas University. She has recently completed her Superintendent Certification coursework with Texas A&M University – Texarkana.

She is married to Ernest Brown and they have two children – Trey (20) and Madison (9).

**-MORE-**



Taking the helm as 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal will be **Larry Gajewskey, Jr.** from Cypress Fairbanks ISD. He brings to the position ten years of educational experience as a Teacher, Assistant Principal and Curriculum Coach.

Gajewskey's educational career began in 2000 with Huntsville ISD (Huntsville Intermediate) as a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher. From 2002 thru 2006, he was with Katy ISD (Katy Junior High) as a 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher. In 2007, Gajewskey took on the position of Disciplinary Alternative Education Principal for Royal Academy at Royal ISD and since 2009 has served as the 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>

Grade Science Curriculum Coach at Cypress Fairbanks ISD.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Science in Education Administration from the University of Houston.



**Michael Rutherford**, a native of Naples, TX, will take on a new role for TMS as Dean of Students. In this position, he will be responsible for implementing a school-wide plan that develops a positive culture of behavior among students and will work closely with teachers and Curriculum Coaches on new state testing standards.

Rutherford has nineteen years in the educational field beginning his career at La Joya ISD (Benavides Elementary) as a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher in August 1991. From 1993 thru 2001, he worked with Austin ISD (Galindo Elementary) as a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math & Science Teacher. In 2001, Rutherford moved to the Northeast Texas area to begin teaching with

Mt. Pleasant ISD as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher. During his five years with Mt. Pleasant ISD, he was twice named Campus Teacher of the Year. Rutherford returned home to Naples in 2006 as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math & Pre-Algebra Teacher with Pewitt CISD. During the past year, he has served not only as a Teacher but as Assistant Principal for Pewitt Junior High.

Rutherford holds a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from East Texas State University. He is currently working towards a Master of Science in Education Administration from Lamar University.

**###**