



PRESS RELEASE

Longwood Central Schools

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New Principals Greet Longwood Students

MIDDLE ISLAND – Students at Longwood High School and West Middle Island Elementary School were greeted by new principals on the first day of school, but both were familiar faces.

Maria Castro, Ed.D., an assistant principal since 2005, previously taught English as a Second Language at Longwood High School. She replaces retiring Principal Donald Murphy.

Dr. Castro earned her Bachelor of Arts degree when her children started elementary school, and went on to teach in New York City while continuing her education. She has experience teaching elementary school, worked on the integration of technology into the curriculum, and served as an administrator. Fluent in Spanish, Dr. Castro holds an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Accountability from St. John's University.

Gretchen Schaentzler began her duties as the principal of West Middle Island Elementary School on July 1, replacing retiring Principal Wynstelle Nicholson. She had served as an assistant principal at the school for two years before accepting an assignment as an assistant principal at Coram Elementary School last year.

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Longwood Principals – add one

Mrs. Schaentzler is a seasoned educator, having taught orchestral strings and elementary school for ten years. Prior to coming to Longwood, she was an interim Dean of Students in Farmingdale.

A graduate of the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, Mrs. Schaentzler is a gifted musician, playing the double bass. She earned her Master of Arts in Elementary Education at Hofstra University, and her Post Master of Arts certification in Educational Leadership from Stony Brook University.