



## 27J Schools

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## A familiar face at South Elementary will lead the school in 2018

**BRIGHTON, COLO. (May 18, 2018)** – School District 27J is pleased to announce that former student and current South Elementary Assistant Principal Kristen Puzio has been selected to take over as school Principal after Kay Collins retires at the end of the school year.

“We had an extremely competitive applicant pool and process and Kristen demonstrated throughout that she is the Principal we believe in most for South's students, community, and staff,” said School District 27J Superintendent Dr. Chris Fiedler.

Ms. Puzio has been an integral part of the South Elementary team since 2001 when she started as a classroom teacher. In 2009 she transitioned to serve as a Literacy Interventionist focusing on the literacy achievement of students in order to increase student performance. Ms. Puzio was then promoted to Dean of Students in 2015 and in 2017 became the Assistant Principal.

“I am so very thankful to turn over the leadership of South Elementary to Kristen,” said current Principal Kay Collins. “South Elementary has been her school as a former student, a teacher and our Assistant Principal. Kristen will always have the best interest of the students at the center of all decisions and the school will flourish under her leadership.”

Ms. Puzio is a proud graduate of the 27J school system attending South Elementary, Overland Trail Middle and Brighton High. Ms. Puzio completed her undergraduate studies at Colorado State University in Fort Collins receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication and obtained a Master of Arts in Instruction and Curriculum in Content Areas from the University of Colorado, Boulder and a Masters of Art in Leadership from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Ms. Puzio will assume her new role as Principal beginning July 1, 2018.

**About 27J Schools:** *27J Schools educates almost 18,000 students from Brighton, Commerce City, Henderson, Thornton, and a portion of the city of Aurora and encompasses parts of Adams, Broomfield and Weld counties. Our mission is to equip our students with the tools and knowledge to succeed now and in the future – [www.sd27j.org](http://www.sd27j.org)*

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