

# Changing of the guard: CVHS gets new principal

## Principal of 13 years set to retire in December

- By Nicole Tuttle For Digital First Media
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Todd Distelrath will become the principal of Chippewa Valley High School in December. Distelrath is currently principal at Seneca Middle School.

PHOTO -- CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS



Chippewa Valley High School Principal Jerry Davisson will retire in December. Todd Distelrath will become the school's next principal.

PHOTO -- CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

Chippewa Valley High School and the district's other educational buildings will receive technology and security upgrades if the measure is approved.

December will mark a changing of the guard at Chippewa Valley High School in Clinton Township, when the current 13-year principal of the school retires and a new leader steps in.

Jerry Davisson, an educator for 39 years and a CVHS administrator for 24 years, will retire in December.

"I worked as a special education teacher and administrator for the Macomb Intermediate School District for 15 years prior to being hired as an assistant principal at Chippewa Valley High School in 1995," said Davisson, who was assistant principal at the high school for 11 years until the retirement of then principal Dave Cannan in 2006.

Davisson said the decision to step down was prompted by a desire to travel and spend more time with family.

"I will miss my daily interactions with students and having the opportunity to empower students to get involved at school," he said. "I will miss watching the students grow both academically and emotionally from ninth to 12th grade."

Davisson also said he plans to remain active at the high school by attending school concerts, plays and sports events.

The Board of Education approved Todd Distelrath as the new principal on Oct. 15. Distelrath has been an administrator at Seneca Middle School in Macomb Township for 14 years, the past 11 as the school's principal. He began his career in the Chippewa Valley Schools district in 2004 as an assistant principal at Seneca, then became principal in 2007.

Distelrath led professional learning community activities at Seneca and facilitated development of school improvement goals and strategies. He also developed a positive behavior intervention and support program for students including school-wide expectations, incentives and discipline. He currently serves as a school board member in the East China School District.

Distelrath said he is looking forward to the challenges of a larger building, more course offerings for students and the chance to help students set and achieve college and career goals.

"This will be similar to my previous position in that it requires the same types of organizational and people skills," Distelrath said. "I still am in a position to try to support and meet the needs of students, staff and parents. I am still in a position to influence and work toward school improvement goals."

Distelrath's education includes a Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Michigan University, a Master of Education in Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership, and an Education Specialist degree from Oakland University. His career as a teacher began in 1997 at St. Clair Middle School in St. Clair.

District spokeswoman Diane Blain said although Distelrath will not officially begin his duties until December, he has begun spending time there to transition. Nicole Faehner will serve as the interim principal of Seneca.

"The Seneca Middle School principal position will be posted later this school year and a new principal will be selected prior to the new school year," Blain said.