

A retired educator of 30 years will serve as the interim principal at the Allen County Primary Center this semester. Tom Renick steps in to the principal's role following the retirement of Lavonna Tarry last month.

"I always loved being at the elementary level," Renick said. "I love working with this age of children."

Renick is a native of Barren County, born and raised in Cave City. Renick graduated from Caverna High School and attended college at Western Kentucky University. Following graduation in 1982, Renick began teaching physical education at the elementary level in Hart County. In 1990, Renick moved to the Carroll County School District where he served for five years.

Renick returned to southern Kentucky in 1996 and entered administration as assistant principal at Henry Moss Middle School. After three years as assistant principal, Renick served as principal of the school until his retirement in 2011. Last year, Renick served a semester as interim principal at Drakes Creek Middle School in Warren County.

Renick is quick to point out that his role will be to guide the school in day-to-day operations in the coming months. One area of focus will be to help teachers spend as much time as possible in the classroom.

“My objective is to help expedite the process of teachers spending more time with their students in the classroom,” Renick added. “The amount of time students have with a teacher is the whole key to the educational process. So anything I can do that might give teachers more time with students is an objective.”

Renick points out that his role is not to make changes since his stay will be limited.

“Changing any strategic initiatives is not proper since it would be unfair for the students, the parents, the teachers and to the next principal,” Renick noted. “I deem my position as a bridge during this transition period.”

To parents, Renick says his door will be open.

“I am very approachable,” Renick added. “I’m looking forward to working with everyone.”

The Allen County Primary Center is one of the largest Primary Center’s in Kentucky, serving approximately 1,000 students from pre-school through the third grade.