Principal - Gary Elementary

Mary Kassir brings with her 18-years of educational experience through a variety of diverse populations. As a school administrator, Ms. Kassir has focused her efforts on dual language as the foremost means by which to foster not only bilingualism, but biliteracy, and multiculturalism. Ms. Kassir views the role of technology as a tool to foster communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking as she considers these skills to be both necessary and transferrable for future success. Her firm belief that we must value, embrace, and educate the whole-child is consistent with the mission of West Chicago School District 33.

Ms. Kassir is returning to West Chicago from Cicero School District 99, where she served as Principal of Sherlock Elementary School, a brand new 21st century, State-of-the-Art, full STEAM and Dual Language Pre-K through 6th grade school.

Throughout her career, Ms. Kassir has passionately pursued her academic endeavors both within and beyond the Spanish language. In 2012, Ms. Kassir obtained a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from Northern Illinois University, and was awarded the 2011 Outstanding Woman Student Award in Romance Languages for her efforts. Her second Master's degree is in Educational Leadership with a Principal endorsement from North Central College where she focused her efforts on bridging the achievement and opportunity gap.

Ms. Kassir serves as Vice President of the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, cycling, yoga, and traveling home and abroad with her two sons, Sami and Anthony, 15 and 13-years-old respectively.