

## PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

I believe educational leaders build an academic culture by demonstrating qualities such as compassion, dedication, honesty, and respect, and by serving as positive role models. It is an administrator's duty to promote the individuality and dignity of each student and foster a learning environment that assists students in realizing their fullest potential. An effective administrator should strive to establish a level of respect that will lead to a strong administrator-student relationship, where their role is one of service and guidance, emphasizing the worth and dignity of each student.

I decided to pursue educational administration because I love inspiring others to affect profound change in the classroom every day. I believe in a school environment where EVERY student feels valued, motivated, and empowered to achieve their academic best. Therefore, it is my mission to not simply be a leader, but an *exceptional* leader, to ensure that staff are successful and that students can thrive in today's modern and ever-changing world.

I believe that there are four key factors to effective school administration, and they are:

- 1. Organizational Knowledge** – First and foremost, effective school administrators have an in-depth knowledge of the school environment, their students and staff, the instructional program, and administrative functions (resources, scheduling, budgeting, etc.).
- 2. Use of Data** – collecting and analyzing student data is integral to understanding the effectiveness of instruction and students' success rates, and to making informed decisions.
- 3. Scheduling** – effective scheduling helps maximize available support staff by scheduling dedicated instructional and intervention blocks and data meetings.
- 4. Positive Beliefs and High Expectations** – positive thinking, optimism and high expectations can take a school community far. For instance, instilling a school-wide belief in students' ability to achieve can help those same students to actually meet those expectations. This establishes a school culture of success.

The perfect relationship between leader and teacher is one built on open and honest communication. I build strong relationships through effective listening, transparency, and by serving as a hands-on and 'present' leader. I believe a strong leader puts the needs of the school and faculty before themselves and focuses on their care and wellbeing above all else. To this end, I strive to develop a strong rapport with all staff, students, and parents to establish a learning environment in which all students feel safe, cared for, and adequately challenged. I truly believe that a leader sets a positive example, is a people person, and builds effective teams that meet the needs of the school community.

My leadership style is open and honest, and I strive to be a positive communicator with colleagues and staff. I strive to be the inspirational leader that reignites the passion for education in teachers who may have forgotten their initial excitement for learning. I oversee the development and implementation of curriculum, perform classroom observations, manage open houses, communicate regularly with parents, and hire and train new faculty. I truly believe that as a leader, I am a supportive and positive role model.

My greatest strengths as an educator and leader are my extensive experience and my ability to listen and communicate effectively to create strong personal links with staff. I offer recognition for team achievements and strive to inspire team members to succeed for the school and themselves. I embrace the diverse perspectives of each staff member and seek to develop them to make the school and the education of students successful. Furthermore, I have excellent communication skills and I remain sensitive to each stakeholder's educational needs.

In conclusion, my hope is to provide faculty and students with a positive impression of education, and the desire to continually learn. I want students and staff to think of me as a dedicated and caring individual who tries to make a positive difference in each person's life. Ultimately, my desire is to serve as an administrator who asks the right questions and who fosters an environment that empowers a shared sense of ownership of the school's goals, vision, and mission.