

**Philosophy of Education Administration**  
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I have developed my ideals and philosophy for the principalship over the course of the past eight years through my work in diverse settings, professional development activities, collaboration within my PLN, leading of extracurricular activities, and graduate coursework. These opportunities have given myself a solid foundation and diverse perspectives on how to develop and maintain effective programs, improve student learning, manage staff, develop a sense of community, and how to lead all stakeholders to achieve greatness. As a principal I will serve a unique role in society where I am not only motivating and helping students move forward academically, socially, and emotionally, but also will contribute to the growth and development of the staff and community as a whole. I strongly believe that within the school it takes all stakeholders as well as a passionate, dedicated, caring, and data driven leader to help prepare all students to become productive members of our ever changing diverse global society.

**INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER:** I strongly believe that in order for a school to have success the students, staff, and community must share and embrace the districts vision and mission that has been developed. The vision and mission should always center on student learning. At the forefront of my responsibilities as an administrator will be the role of instructional leader. Every child when given quality, data driven instructional methods has the ability to learn and reach their full potential. As administrator I must ensure that each student within the building is receiving engaging, rigorous, and relevant instruction where positive relationships are being developed. To ensure that high quality instruction is taking place I must actively enter classrooms and evaluate the instructional practices of the staff.

I must also recognize that teachers and staff are also learners and need resources, professional

development opportunities, and time for collaboration to improve instruction. Creating a culture of adult learning within the building will help staff grow and ultimately move students forward. The professional development opportunities must be meaningful and relate to what each teacher is doing within the classroom. Professional development would include research based best practices, modeling, and coaching opportunities. Providing time for teachers to enter their colleagues classrooms is an excellent professional development opportunity to improve teacher effectiveness and one that I would greatly encourage and create time for. Not only should instruction within the classrooms must be utilizing the latest educational research but it should also be incorporating the latest 21st Century tools to help guide instruction and prepare students for life and opportunities beyond high school. A major focus of professional development should include the integration of 21st Century tools and teaching 21st Century skills to help improve student learning and achievement.

**COLLABORATOR:** As administrator I must work to develop and maintain a sense of community within the school through collaboration. If community is going to be a core value within my school I must work to organize the school, schedule, and activities to allow for a sense of community and collaboration to be developed. Partnerships and collaboration are very powerful and help schools to overcome obstacles and achieve goals, so I must provide opportunities both inside and outside of the school day for it to occur. Organizing the school into “Teams” where teachers share a group of students and become “mentors” or “advisors” to the students would be my first step in creating this sense of community among students. Providing the teachers of these teams common planning time to discuss students as well as collaborate and share curriculum and events taking place within the classroom. Not only should collaboration be taking place in the classroom with students, but staff should also work as a professional learning community to collaborate with other staff members, schools, parents, and community members. The building of community must begin with school leaders and supportive staff that are enthusiastic about carrying out the vision and building community within the building.

**LEADER/MOTIVATOR:** An effective principal must be a servant leader to students, staff, parents, and the community. Part of the responsibility of being a leader within the school is having the ability to motivate. A huge part of motivating the staff, students, parents, and community is to celebrate the successes and to recognize the great things that are taking place within the school. Much effort is put into these achievements by all stakeholders and recognizing these great achievements whether it be by a short note, email, school website story, personal congratulation, or a pizza party, will go a long way in keeping the school moving forward and stakeholders excited. As a leader I must also be visible and develop personal relationships with students. Current research shows that by developing these relationships with students they are able to establish a greater attachment to the school. The relationships will also help myself and staff in understanding the needs of students and how they can best be met. By greater understanding student needs myself as well as the staff will be better equipped to lead and motivate students in reaching their educational goals and desired outcomes.

**MANAGER:** Not to be overlooked in the administrative capacity is the role of manager within the school. As a principal I will be responsible for professional development, budgets, facilities, safety, students, staff, and a long list of other duties. It will be absolutely vital for me to prioritize and manage all of these duties as efficiently and effectively as I can. Developing a task management system and having a collaborative approach to these responsibilities will not only develop a sense of ownership among staff but will also lead to the development of future leaders. Taking a collaborative approach and involving my secretary and the rest of the staff and community will be of utmost importance so that I can spend a large amount of my time focusing on what matters most within the school: student learning and achievement.

