

## **10/3/24: National Principals Month**

October is National Principals Month, a special time to recognize and celebrate our school principals' incredible impact on our students, staff, and the entire community. Our principals, the heartbeat of our schools, drive a commitment to excellence, equity, and safety every day. Their unwavering dedication to improving the lives of our students and the broader school community is truly remarkable and should fill us all with confidence and reassurance.

Being a principal today is more challenging than ever. Our principals balance many responsibilities, from ensuring rigorous academic standards and providing robust extracurricular opportunities to mentoring students, staff, and even new administrators. They engage in ongoing professional development to keep up with the latest educational research and best practices and are responsible for leading professional growth for their teams and staff. Understanding and empathy for their role is crucial.

Our principals strive to be visible and supportive at after-hours events, often attending school activities and even accompanying teams, clubs, and groups to out-of-town events and competitions. They spend countless hours digging into data to ensure their schools provide all students with the best, research-driven educational opportunities. They juggle the immense responsibility of balancing state testing windows, adapting to ever-changing curriculum and standards, and providing hands-on, engaging instruction to students who face various challenges on every front.

Moreover, the role of a principal is as diverse as it is demanding. On any given day, a principal may lead a staff meeting to inspire and guide their team and then turn around to sit and support a student who has experienced a devastating personal loss. They must be prepared for anything and everything in between. It requires a rare combination of leadership, empathy, resilience, and dedication.

One of the most critical aspects of their role is maintaining a safe and secure school environment. This requires meticulous attention to detail, from ensuring all doors and fences and gates are secured to vetting every visitor who steps on campus. The safety of our students is the foundation upon which all other activities are built, and our principals are at the forefront of this vital work.

We encourage everyone in our community to take a moment this month to recognize, thank, and appreciate the principal of your child's current school. Consider also reaching out to a principal who influenced your life or the life of your child in a meaningful way. A simple note of gratitude, a thoughtful message, or a gesture of appreciation can go a long way in acknowledging the tireless efforts of these dedicated leaders. Your involvement and recognition are crucial in making them feel valued.

Our principals are truly remarkable individuals who go above and beyond every day to put the "A" back in Bay. Their commitment to our students, staff, and community is inspiring, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such outstanding leaders guiding our schools.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating National Principals Month and for your continued support of Bay District Schools. We are working to create a safe, supportive, and thriving environment for every student. Let's keep working together to put the "A" back in Bay.