

Personal Statement

Make a difference--three simple yet impactful words that have steered me throughout my professional journey. As a classroom teacher I discovered that creating an environment conducive to learning is highly complex. I found success in managing the complexities by focusing on a vision: the potential to make a difference in my students' lives. My role as an educational leader has allowed me to extend the potential impact I can make beyond the walls of one classroom and include faculty, staff, administration, and parents. I have reveled in this opportunity and have recognized this role as one in which I thrive. My years in the classroom provided me with foundational principles I continue to apply as a leader. These guiding principles define my beliefs and actions as a leader who strives to make a difference within the greater educational community.

Build relationships. The people of the organization define the organization. Taking the time to gain an understanding of each person, regardless of his or her role at the school, demonstrates the value I see in each one of them and the work each one does for the school. Genuine, frequent conversations assist me in not only understanding each individual's personality, background, strengths, and areas for improvement, but coincidentally also builds trust throughout the organization.

Education is the core business of schools. All stakeholders should have a practical understanding of the programs and learning experiences of the students. I believe that there is incredible value in conducting frequent, informal classroom visits with various constituents of the organization. Everyone involved in the school should celebrate the learning in the classrooms by being able to speak to the regular, lived experiences of our students.

Appreciate the journey. Transforming a vision into reality takes time and hard work. During the journey it is important to stay committed and celebrate the community's successes along the way. Transparency throughout the process is crucial, providing frequent reminders as to why the work is being accomplished. Constituents of the school should have an opportunity to provide feedback and feel that they are a part of the decision-making process.

Create a culture of collaboration. The school is a community where everyone is working together to support the vision. By providing structures and practices that create a safe environment to share ideas, teams can work collaboratively to achieve their goals. Meeting norms, roles, and using data to drive decisions allow for strategic planning and provides a way forward in achieving the vision.