The Principal’s Role in SEL

The challenges facing our nation’s principals continue to increase. The invisible backpack brought into the academic setting by students and adults continues to enlarge. Social and emotional learning (SEL) are at the forefront of school leadership needs. But a recent study showed that principals need greater knowledge and support to effectively implement school wide, evidence-based SEL programs.

To help meet this need, NAESP hosted a webinar, “The Principal’s Role in Social and Emotional Learning,” presented by Melissa Schlinger, vice president of Practice and Programs at the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL); Justina Schlund, director of Field Learning, CASEL; and Sherrie Raven, director of PSELI Implementation, CASEL.

Here’s how these three champions for SEL integration recommend principals coordinate and build upon SEL practices and programs to create an environment that infuses SEL into every part of students’ educational experience and promotes equitable outcomes.

Breaking Down SEL

What is SEL? It’s a combination of skills like self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness that, in combination, set students up for success in school and life after school. What do Schlinger, Schlund, and Raven say SEL should look like, feel like, and sound like? Indicators of schoolwide SEL are:

- Explicit SEL instruction;
- SEL integrated with academic instruction;
- Youth voice and engagement;
- Supportive school and classroom climates;
- Focus on adult SEL;
- Supportive discipline;
- A continuum of integrated supports;
- Authentic family partnerships;
- Aligned community partnerships; and
- Systems for continuous improvement.

Areas of Focus

Schlinger, Schlund, and Raven highlight four areas of focus to establish SEL programming.

Focus Area 1: Build Foundational Support and Create a Plan
- Create a highly-functioning representative SEL team;
- Dedicate time and space to engage the school community in foundational learning;
- Lead the collaborative development of a shared vision for SEL;
- Engage your team in reviewing current implementation, needs and resources, setting goals and developing an implementation plan;
- Allocate resources to support SEL goals and implementation; and
- Communicate frequently about SEL as a school priority.

Focus Area 2: Strengthen Adult SEL Competencies and Capacity
- Create opportunities for staff to learn about and strengthen SEL professional skills and their own social and emotional competence;
- Create structures that foster trust and collaboration among staff; and
- Identify ways to explicitly model SEL in your interactions with staff, families, and students.

Focus Area 3: Promote SEL for Students
- Align school climate, programs, and practices to promote SEL;
- Review and adopt an evidence-based SEL program and ensure staff have access to related curriculum, professional learning, and ongoing coaching;
- Support teachers in developing supportive classroom environments that engage in explicit SEL and integrate SEL throughout instruction;
- Develop authentic family partnerships; and
- Leverage strategic and aligned community partnerships.

Focus Area 4: Practice Continuous Improvement
- Create a schoolwide continuous improvement culture, including modeling your own reflective practice with data and learning from mistakes;
- Provide the SEL team and other involved staff with access to high-quality SEL-related data;
- Offer opportunities for staff to cultivate knowledge and skills for analyzing data and presenting it to others;
- Ensure that staff have authority to act on what they’re learning.

—Dateline NAESP

Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) will no longer collect KAESP dues!!

KASA has made the decision was made that it was not economically feasible for KASA to collect dues for their affiliates. So, to join, you will need to join KAESP directly. We hope that you will make the choice to become a member of your association.

Now there are three ways to join KAESP:

1) Personal Check
2) Purchase Order
3) PayPal

For items one and two above, mail these to Rosie Young, 1801 Echo Trail, Louisville, KY 40245

For item three above, please visit the KAESP website (www.kaespky.org) and use the PayPal option on the Join Us screen.

Membership application is available on the website: www.kaespky.org
Guess where the 2020 NAESP Convention will be held? Louisville, KY  July 12—14, 2020  Register now—www.naesp.org

News from KDE...

The Kentucky Board of Education is accepting nominations for the Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education.

Each year, KBE gives this award to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization demonstrating extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of educational diversity and equity. The criteria for receiving this award includes, but is not limited to:

- Successful efforts in closing socio-economic and/or racial achievement gaps; and
- Significantly improving student learning, student achievement, or other measured outcomes among students of color or economically disadvantaged students.

The award honors Samuel Robinson, a former KBE member who made diversity and equity in public education his life’s work. The nomination deadline is Nov. 29.

Four Kentucky Teachers win Presidential Award for Math, Science Teaching

Four Kentucky mathematics and science teachers are among 213 recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The PAEMST winners from Kentucky are:

Grades K-6
Kristi Fehr, science, Cassidy Elementary School (Fayette County)
Melanie Ramey, mathematics, Highland Elementary School (Johnson County)

Grades 7-12
Deborah Brock, science, Simon Kenton High School (Kenton County)
Erin Schneider, mathematics, Atheron High School (Jefferson County)

Congratulations!!!

KAESP is Looking for Board Members!

Do you have an interest in serving on the KAESP Board of Directors? We are looking for principals and assistant principals to serve on the board by representing the principals in their region. The full board only meets about two times a year with most business conducted via email. Regional representatives are asked to recruit members from their region, attend KAESP functions, and provide leadership in KAESP. We are looking to grow the board and involvement of our members in KAESP. We need you!

If you are interested in being a more active member, please contact Rosie Young at ryoung@bellarmine.edu.

KAESP Website

The new KAESP website is up and running—check it out at : kaespy.org

www.kaespy.org

Remember, first year principals receive a free KAESP membership for their first year. First year principals are asked to complete a membership application form and send it to the KAESP indicating their first year principalship status. Welcome aboard!!

Derrick Harris, KY’s 2019 NDP

Derrick Harris, Principal of Bell Elementary School in Wayne County, recently traveled to Washington, DC to participate in NAESP’s National Distinguished Principal’s Program.

“Your leadership serves as a shining example of the importance of the school principal in meeting the challenging responsibility of educating children,” noted Executive Director L. Earl Franks, Ed.D., CAE in a letter to the NDP Class of 2019.

Harris has served as a principal since 2006 starting at Walker Early Learning Center, while leading Bell Elementary in that capacity since 2013. He has focused on implementing best practices that increase student performance and learning, such as a differentiated literacy program that ensures each child’s specific instructional needs are being met.

Derrick takes pride in discovering teachers’ strengths, then finding the resources and tools to help them reach their fullest potential. He believes a true leader inspires more leaders. He has created a culture at Bell where staff are encouraged to live up to this vision.

“I’ll take good people over good programs,” said Harris who has a sign on his organized desk, “In this office…WE do TEAMWORK, we do Help, We do Respect, Punctuality, and Laughter. We Communicate and Listen. We do Motivation. We do GREAT Things!”

Even though, the sights and sounds of the experience were a bit overwhelming, the warm wishes from his staff and students probably meant the most to Derrick when he returned home. A surprise open house luncheon was held in the school library to commemorate Harris’ honorary trip.

“T’m very blessed to have so many highly skilled educators in our building,” stressed Harris. “They run this ship and I try to keep it afloat and point it in a positive direction.”

Various groups of his first and second graders made appearances during the potluck lunch, complete with handmade signs and hugs to melt his heart. Staff members brought their specialties in crockpots, along with deliciously baked desserts. His parents and his young nephew were the honorary guests at the congratulatory event as staff members rotated in and out during their hurried school lunch schedule.

“I’m very blessed to have so many highly skilled educators in our building,” stressed Harris. “They run this ship and I try to keep it afloat and point it in a positive direction.”

“T’m very blessed to have so many highly skilled educators in our building,” stressed Harris. “They run this ship and I try to keep it afloat and point it in a positive direction.”
NAESP has joined with a number of other state associations to launch the Ed Leaders Network.

The Ed Leaders Network (ELN) is grounded in the belief that educational leaders impact student performance. With this foundational belief at its core, multiple state principal associations have partnered together to provide you high-quality, on-demand professional development webinars to enhance your leadership growth. A dynamic professional networking community has also been created to allow you to interact with your peers and leadership experts from across the country. In short, the ELN’s mission is to provide you the professional development content and capacity building professional network you need to do what’s best for your students and learning community.

If you are a Member of KAESP, terrific news! You may receive the benefits of the ELN at a discounted rate. Subscribe now at the early bird rate of $39 annually for KAESP member and for $199 for nonmembers. Regular ELN pricing will be $199 annually for Members of State Affiliates/$399 for non-members once the early bird rate ends.

Visit the website at www.edleadersnetwork.org to take a tour of the site or contact Rosie Young, KAESP Executive Director for additional information.

News from NAESP

NAESP is Turning 100

In 2021, NAESP will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary. In celebration of this historic event, we are commissioning a 3-D art installation commemorating a century of dedicated service to elementary and middle-level principals, to be unveiled at the 2021 Pre-K-8 Principals Conference in Chicago.

To help with the creation of the artwork, we are asking our members to donate artifacts that they have saved over the years to be included in the piece. You could submit, for example, photos, souvenirs, awards, or branded items—anything that helps recount NAESP’s history.

So this winter, as you prepare to enter a new decade, take the time to share your remembrances about NAESP.

Join NAESP!

If you are not familiar with the many benefits of NAESP membership, please visit the website at www.naesp.org to see what our National Association has to offer. Your membership could help us become a Goal Buster Plus award winner again! School funds can be used for the Institutional Active membership category and you will receive a second set of publications for your school as well as an active membership. Please join!!

Become a Member of KAESP Today!

The drive is on! The KAESP is conducting its membership drive and we need you as a member! Current members will receive an email to notify them of the need to renew their membership. If you do not receive this membership email, you are not a member and we want YOU! Your Regional Representative is listed on page 4 of this newsletter. You may contact your regional representative for information on membership, contact KAESP at kaesp@kaesp.org or visit the website (www.kaesp.org) for the membership application. We hope you become a member of your professional association. The KAESP is the only association dedicated to the needs of elementary and middle level principals. If you are not a member, please consider joining so that we may do even more for our members! Membership dues are only $90.00 a year. Please join us as we advocate, serve and lead!

Interested in Mentor Training:

December 4—5 Sunderland, PA
Jan. 28—29 Knoxville, TN
Feb. 6—7 Oklahoma City, OK
Mary 5—6 Augusta, MA
June 3—4 Alexandria, VA

Visit https://www.naesp.org/mentor for more information.

Louisville, KY will serve as the site of the Annual NAESP Conference next summer! Kentucky is excited to be hosting this event. If you would like to be involved in the planning, contact NAESP. Also, please make plans to attend! Great opportunity to attend a national conference!

NAESP/Annual Convention

July 12—14 2020
Louisville, KY

http://www.principalsconference.org/
Being a Successful Principal: Riding the Wave of Change without Drowning by David R. Schumaker, and William A. Sommers.

This book is a collection of stories, tips, and anecdotes written by principals, for principals. It is a perfect light read for any school administrator. Think Chicken Soup for the Soul.

Schools Take On Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Homeless Programs Office has partnered with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the American Student Council Association (ASCA) to host the End Veteran Homelessness Challenge. Through this partnership, these organizations—and the members they represent—are setting out to help homeless and at-risk veterans obtain affordable housing and everyday household essentials.

“It is an honor for VA to again collaborate with NAESP, ASCA and their member schools as they collect funds and household essential items for veterans who are exiting homelessness,” said VHA-National Homeless Program Office, Executive Director, Monica Diaz. “The students’ generous donations will help formerly homeless veterans reintegration back into their communities by making their houses feel like homes.”

In September, participating ASCA schools across the country began competing with one another to raise the most money and collect the most household goods and clothing to benefit homeless or at-risk veterans. The funds schools collect will go toward the cost of helping homeless veterans move into safe, stable housing.

Veterans who are exiting homelessness need essentials that many of us take for granted, like bed sheets, socks, and cleaning supplies. They also need kitchen essentials, including pots, pans, plates, utensils, and glasses. By collecting these basic household items, students are helping veterans transition to stable housing and into the next phase of their lives.

Participating student councils will be paired with local VA medical centers to coordinate fundraising and donation activities based on the needs of local veterans who are exiting homelessness. Councils will be provided with materials to help them solicit donations. Some councils might even have the opportunity to have a veteran go to their school to speak with students.

The challenge will take place from Sept. 30, 2019, through Nov. 15, 2019. The student council with the biggest impact will be featured in the first issue of the ASCA Newsletter of 2020 and also will receive a prize package for its council members. All participating councils will receive a certificate of thanks and automatic consideration for the ASCA Honor Council Award.

Since 2010, the goal of the VA Homeless Programs Office has been to connect veterans with permanent, affordable housing as quickly as possible. In that time, VA programs have contributed to a 5.4 percent decrease in homelessness among veterans between 2017 and 2018 and a decrease of 49 percent since 2010. VA also has worked diligently to connect veterans with employment opportunities, health care, justice, and re-entry services to prevent homelessness whenever possible.

To Think About …

Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States: “In a global economy where the most valuable skill you can sell is your knowledge, a good education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity – it is a prerequisite.”

Brene Brown, author and researcher: “To me, a leader is someone who holds her- or himself accountable for finding potential in people and processes.”

Albert Einstein, German-born theoretical physicist: “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Maya Angelou, poet and civil rights activist: “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Want to join us? —Send an email to Rosie Young at kaespky@gmail.com