

ASK A PRINCIPAL

During Principals Month in October, we asked our members,

“What’s one tool you use to make your job easier?”

Here are some of the great responses we received:

“ Student feedback is a tool I am just starting to use effectively with staff to figure out the impact of our adjustments to instruction...students tell it like it is and sometimes that is exactly what we need to hear.”

Casey Crawford
Principal, Woodland Elementary,
North Thurston PS

“ I would be lost without my mobile desk! It holds everything I need to do my work on-the-go. I can be in the halls, the lunchroom, and always have a space to work during observations. And it’s a kid magnet -- they stop just to check out my “office”!”

Brenda Goehring
Assistant Principal,
Prairie View
Elementary,
Mead SD



“ Google Tasks has been a life saver of a to-do list. It integrates with Gmail (so many districts have converted from Outlook) as a task bar on the side. The phone app allows me to jot down tasks on the fly, assign dates, add notes, and create a work flow that keeps the work flowing despite the most hectic days!”



Troy Wright
Principal, Mount Baker Junior High,
Mount Baker SD

“ Giving up my principal office completely! We turned it into a family reading library where families come in, read together and take home as many books as they’d like. How does this make my job easier? Not having an office allows me to be visible in classrooms, the lunch room and playground; communicating and providing feedback to staff, students and families. This is my greatest accomplishment this year!

Kelli Leppert-Demonte
Principal, Jefferson-Lincoln Elementary,
Centralia SD



“ My Woot-Woot Wagon! I use it to deliver treats to my staff on occasion. I am working on building a strong positive culture, and want to recognize staff for all their hard work and dedication to students and the school.

Jamie Blood-Dunn
Principal, Robert Gray Elementary, Aberdeen SD



“ We are in the middle of a remodel and just got an electronic reader board. Love keeping families up to date.”

Patty Kilmer
Principal, East Olympia Elementary, Tumwater SD

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“ This may sound old school, but my tool is the old fashioned phone. I make a weekly call home and leave a message and email to my students’ families, school board, and staff concerning my building’s upcoming events for the week/month. I have never had one complaint.

Clay Henry
Principal, Kiona-Benton City High,
Kiona-Benton City SD

“ The people I work with everyday are the resources I depend on the most, but a tool I would say that is effective for me is my shoes - being visible and walking the halls, in classrooms, and always moving. Be a part of what happens in your school!

Brent Osborn
Principal, Lakeside High,
Nine Mile Falls SD

“ Although my secretary isn’t a tool, her ability to prioritize and create practical systems sure makes my job easier!

Mark Clements
Principal, River HomeLink,
Battle Ground PS

“ Marshall Memos: For a small fee principals can received weekly summaries of educational articles from a variety of topics relevant to our leadership roles.

Shawn Anderson
Principal, Jenkins Jr/Sr High,
Chewelah SD

“ One tool that makes my job easier is OneNote. I have all staff, committee, and content meeting groups in a separate folder. I can take notes, keep a running agenda, and refer to previous meetings all in one spot. Great tool.



Shari Walsh
Assistant Principal, Fairhaven Middle,
Bellingham PS

“ Neural Education, the science behind what our kiddos need to create new neuron connections in their brain to help overcome the ACES that so many bring to the table. #raftingup

Karey Richardson
Assistant Principal, Stahl Junior High,
Puyallup SD



“ That video that Scott does... He is like the news guy and then there are bloopers. But seriously it’s pretty fun to watch and I feel like it keeps me in the loop with what is going on all across the state.

Matt Kesler
Principal, Laurin Middle,
Battle Ground PS



Did You Know?

AWSP’s Washington School Principals Legislative Effectiveness Association’s Political Action Committee (AWSP-WSPLEA PAC) is one vital way that principals throughout Washington state can take an active role in the political process. Contributing to our PAC strengthens AWSP’s ability to support candidates and issues that are important to the principalship and to K-12 education. Our PAC is entirely funded by member contribution. No AWSP dues are used to support our political outreach efforts.

Currently, only 7% of AWSP’s 3,485 active members contribute to our PAC. Your contribution is essential in helping us support educators’ interests in the Legislature. If you are a current PAC member, we thank you for your continued support. If you changed districts over the summer, and contributed through payroll deduction, you will need to submit a PAC contribution form to your new district. If you are not a current PAC member, we need you! Help us advocate.

For more information visit www.awsp.org/PAC or contact Cris Sippel, cris@awsp.org, at the AWSP office.

