

ASK A PRINCIPAL

We asked members, "What Made You Decide to Become a Principal/AP?"

Here are some of the great responses we received:



Paul McKenzie (right) with influencer Dan Roche, former principal at Cascade View Elementary in Tukwila SD.

“The influence of my mentor, Dan Roche, was one of the reasons I decided to pursue the principalship. Seeing his ability to lead, support teachers, and build relationships with students and families inspired me. I became a principal to be a change agent and servant leader like Dan.”

Paul McKenzie

Principal, Pioneer Elementary, Auburn SD

“I worked as a teacher in a building where some great teachers weren't able to teach to their highest level because of the numerous distractions out there. I thought I could impact more students by clearing distractions and allowing great teachers to make the impacts on students that they got into this job to do.”



Ed Crow

Principal, Monroe High, Monroe PS

“Knowing that every child needs an advocate and every staff member and parent/guardian needs a voice. Being a principal means taking care of the whole community which is a great opportunity and privilege.”



Crystal Lanz

K-12 Principal, Trout Lake Schools, Trout Lake SD

“I made the decision to pursue this profession because I love teaching. And giving up my classroom for an office was one of the hardest professional choices I've had to make. But I had a mentor who showed me the meaning of being an instructional leader, who showcased that the principalship is so much more than just staff meetings, discipline and schedules. She showed me that it is about inspiring the hearts and minds of fellow educators and working to build a school full of rigor and love. And so it was that I sought to take my passion for teaching kids and work to utilize it with a laser focus on lifting and transforming a building of my own.”



Chris Plucker

Assistant Principal, Davis Elementary, College Place PS

“These precious Kinders did! I had to be sure that they would continue to have an amazing start and love of learning! We are the foundation for success!”



Kacey Lynn Amador Soto

Assistant Principal, Sun Valley Elementary, Sunnyside SD