

## School of Excellence Principal Quotes

Selected quotes from 2017-2019 National PTA School of Excellence Principals about the School of Excellence program and impact their PTAs have on their schools:

### CONNECTICUT

"This program has opened up important dialogues that will positively impact our school community. In some areas it has validated our work. In some areas, it has brought things to our attention that we hadn't considered. I have enjoyed the process." – Christopher Moretti, Hawley Elementary School Principal

### DELEWARE

"The School of Excellence has provided us great feedback. It has forced us to think outside the box, reassess our values, and think about the unique ways we can make our building more friendly to visitors who speak a different language. The feedback we received was concise and specific. The School of Excellence ideas were warmly received by our building leadership team and staff." – Jason Bastianelli, HB Dupont Middle School Principal

### FLORIDA

"MAST PTSA is truly an extension of our school, their support and dedication to our students and faculty is unremitting." - Josephine Otero, MAST Academy Principal

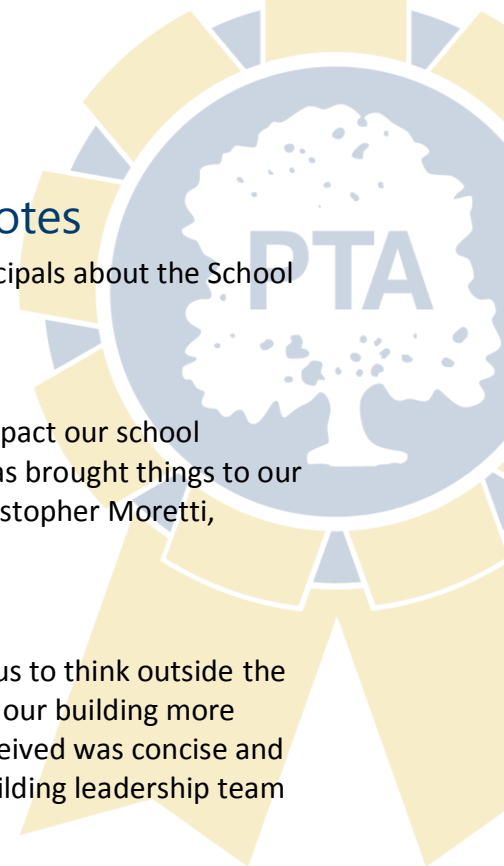
"The National PTA School of Excellence program was very helpful in identifying areas to improve upon and also highlighted the positive strengths of our school and PTA. Dommerich Elementary has a very active PTA membership and community partner support that work hard to help meet the needs of our students, teachers and school. This prestigious award would be in honor of their commitment to education and advocacy for the students and families at Dommerich Elementary." – Karen Verano, Dommerich Elementary Principal

"The PTA has done a remarkable job fostering a caring, nurturing and safe environment through various innovative, proactive campaigns and programs held throughout the school year. These programs have a lasting effect on our schoolchildren as they grow and mature, resulting in the formation of responsible citizens of our community and world". – Scott Saperstein, Virginia A. Book Highland Oaks Elementary School Principal

### GEORGIA

"We are very fortunate to have a school population that reflects the world. The PTSA initiative of improving family engagement this year has truly emphasized making sure all of our families feel welcome to our school and have the necessary resources to be successful." – Jimmy Zoll, Johns Creek High School Principal

"In the past few years, our PTA has grown into an organization that has had a direct impact on student success. Having this honor would honor the hard work put in by so many PTA members



and galvanize us to achieve even greater things in the future.” Taylor Barton, Lake Forest Principal

“We appreciate our PTA's efforts to reach out to all families to welcome them to our Barnwell family and solicit their help and support throughout the year. By personally welcoming new families to our school, in their native language, our PTA is building strong partnerships that benefit all children in all classrooms.” – Martin Neuhaus, Barnwell Elementary Principal

### **GERMANY (DoDEA School)**

“The National PTA School of Excellence program has encouraged us to reflect on matters of our school that sometimes slip by as we concentrate on improving students' academic performance. What I have come to realize is that ensuring our school is welcoming to all and families' needs are met are the first steps in improving students' academic performance. The more we can work as a school to continually increase our family engagement, the more successful our students will be. This will characterize a high functioning home school partnership.” - Mary Salerno, Ramstein Intermediate School Principal

### **MICHIGAN**

“I think that any time you can gather feedback from your community you should take advantage of it, and this is a formal way to do that.” – Dr. Dyanne Sanders, High Meadow Common Campus Principal

### **MISSOURI**

“We are proud of our school diversity where 23 languages are spoken by our families, we are proud of the powerful impact that our PTA has on our school and we are proud of the PRIDE our students show every day. The School of Excellence Program is a powerful tool that can benefit everyone. It brings to light ways that the school/PTA can improve, but it also celebrates successes. It can be a visual reminder of everything we have accomplished together as a school and PTA. Our Chinn PTA strives for excellence and I am always excited to work with this amazing group.” – Lee Heinerikson, Thomas B. Chinn Elementary Principal

### **NEW JERSEY**

“The award provides an example of how the PTA, community and school have a bond and interest in ensuring that our students succeed. It's an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments while setting goals towards future challenges.” - Dr. Gregory Matlosz, Upper Greenwood Lake Elementary School Principal

### **OHIO**

“Grindstone PTA is a valued organization of our school community. Without the support of our parents, many great opportunities for our students, family and staff would never happen. Our



PTA dreams big and then makes those dreams become a reality. The focus of our PTA is centered around doing what is best for our students and families. The mission of Grindstone's PTA stands for everything this organization believes in; 'A powerful voice for all children, A relevant resource for families and communities, and A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. - Teri Grimm, Grindstone Elementary School Principal

## **TEXAS**

“One cannot fathom the success of Cobb Middle School without the support of our PTA. Cobb is a true community school with all adults having a vested interest in the success and well-being of all students. Our PTA is woven into the fabric of who we are. The Cobb PTA is always in the forefront asking how can we help? In my time as Principal of Cobb Middle School, there has never been a time when I needed the PTA and they were not there. Our educational community is better for having such a wonderful PTA. As we stand together in partnership, the possibilities for the students and staff of Cobb Middle School are endless!” – Tonja Fitzgerald, Cobb Middle School Principal

“The School of Excellence program embodies the ideals and goals of a collaboration between our families and administration and provides the tools to improve these important relationships.” – Michelle Wooten, Donald Elementary Principal

## **VIRGINIA**

“In Today’s World, it is essential that a partnership exist between schools, parents, and community. It is in our best interest to support one another as we work to create a school environment that is safe, inviting, engaging, and relevant. When schools, parents, and communities work together the sky is the limit. Our students deserve our commitment to go above and beyond for their educational experience.” – Dr. Lindsey Caccavale, Dare Elementary Principal

## **WYOMING**

“The School of Excellence program has provided us an opportunity as a PTA and building to make improvements to the overall quality of our school. The survey results have been useful in guiding us in some much-needed next steps and areas of improvement. One thing that stood out in those surveys was a need for more open communication. As the principal, I believe in open and honest communication and value the feedback from the survey as it will help guide me in being an even more efficient communicator with our parents and community.” - Jerrod Dastrup, Uinta Meadows Elementary Principal