

## School of Excellence Principal Quotes

Selected quotes from 2018-2020 National PTA School of Excellence Principals about the School of Excellence program and the impact their PTAs have on their schools:

### CONNECTICUT

“As a two-time recipient, I value how this program allows me to provide a voice and committee for our parent community to assist in school improvement efforts. We now have a standing School of Excellence Committee that meets regularly throughout the year to monitor the implementation of promised programs as well as ways to improve elsewhere.” – Jennifer Sherriff, Mill Hill Elementary School Principal

“The School of Excellence Program has brought out the creativity in our families, PTA, students and staff. We were so very lucky to have such interesting, varied activities this year. I cannot wait to see what next year brings!” – Noelle Guerini, Wilcoxson Elementary School Principal

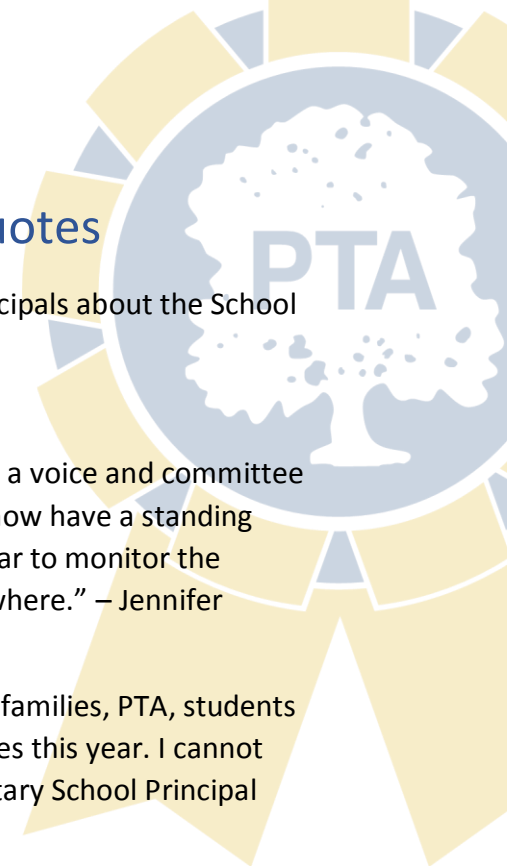
### FLORIDA

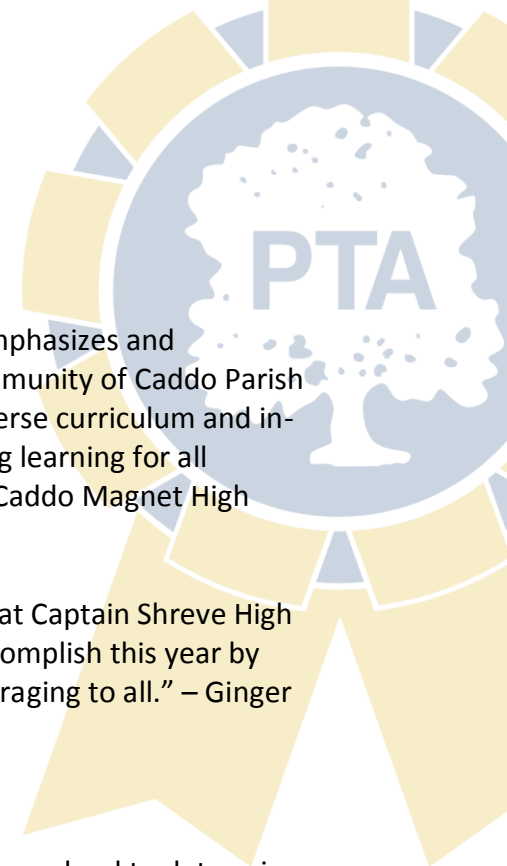
“The program has helped our team grow in effectiveness. We are grateful to the PTA and your program which challenges families and schools to grow!” – Adam Faust, Glendale Elementary Principal

“Working through The School of Excellence program has been an important and positive process for Learning Gate. We developed and put a plan in place to increase our parent involvement in a variety of ways. We will be dedicating space at both campuses to provide parents with education materials for their children. These materials will provide resources in areas like mental health, Exceptional Student Services and educational programs. We have begun a multicultural event at the school that will be elaborated on each year in order to educate our students and families on the cultures of the families that make up our community. Finally, we will be expanding our evening events to include three academic events in which to assist families in understanding our philosophy on education. These additions to Learning Gate Community School will work towards developing an even more connected community.” – Michelle Mason, Learning Gate Community School Principal

### KENTUCKY

“At Veterans Park Elementary the partnership between the administration and PTA is crucial to our continued school progress. I feel strongly that the School of Excellence program supports student needs in order to provide an optimal learning environment for all.” – Molly Dabney, Veterans Park Elementary School Principal





## **LOUISIANA**

“The School of Excellence Program's impact on the school is one that emphasizes and strengthens our commitment to our mission statement: The school community of Caddo Parish Magnet High School will provide excellence in education through its diverse curriculum and in-depth studies, offering college preparatory courses and fostering lifelong learning for all students in a nurturing, safe school environment.” – Michael Ilgenfritz, Caddo Magnet High School Principal

“I am thrilled with the success of the PTA School of Excellence Initiative at Captain Shreve High School. What our students, administration and parents were able to accomplish this year by encouraging positive peer to peer relationships was inspiring and encouraging to all.” – Ginger Gustavson, Captain Shreve High School Principal

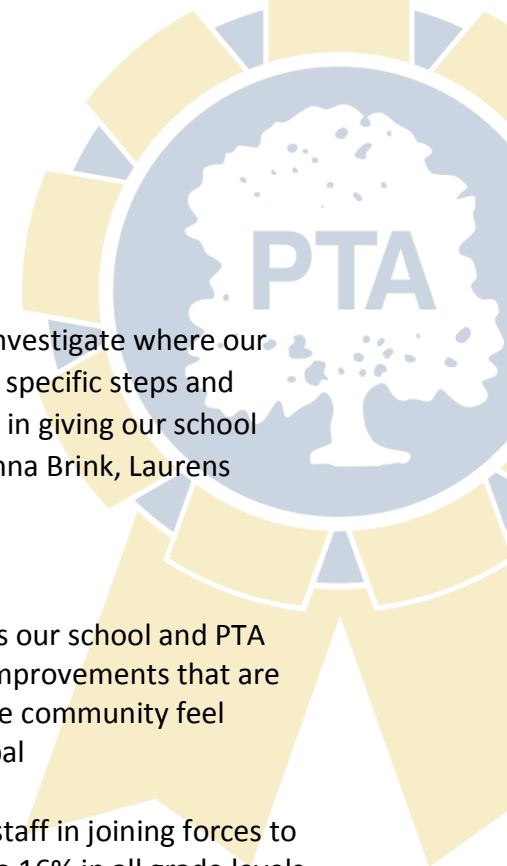
## **MARYLAND**

“In the PTA's pursuit of Excellence they reached into the far corners of our school to determine needs and to reach as many families as possible. They did not act as if they were chasing Excellence, but rather were already Excellent. They have increased diversity, technology, the arts, education for parents and so many other areas. We are deeply grateful.” – Tracey Ahern, Odenton Elementary School Principal

## **NEW YORK**

“Striving for excellence for the advancement of the health and safety of our students in collaboration with the PTA this year has been an extraordinary experience for McVey School and its students. The value of this work is beyond measure. It has been the true definition of TEAM as together everybody does/did achieve more. From providing an additional meal for our children to truly ensuring safety during emergencies and exploring ‘kindeology,’ the atmosphere at McVey School is notably different. Families have less burden, parents feel more secure and children are choosing kindness daily. In addition, there has been a hidden bonus; the level of transparency between the school and its stakeholders is perceived to be greater. This has helped grow mutual trust, perhaps the greatest of the ‘Six pillars of character.’ In short, this program has made McVey School better for everyone.” - Kerry Dunne, McVey Elementary School Principal

“Striving for the School of Excellence Award has been a collaborative process for us. It helped to guide us toward how to improve to help our students, and instead of being guided by staff, it was led by our families and their hopes and goals for us as a school. I look forward to continuing this process in the future, as it has been a rewarding collaboration for all involved!” – Elissa Smith, Lyndonville Central School Principal



## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

“The School of Excellence Program gave our school the opportunity to investigate where our stakeholders felt we needed to address to help meet needs and gave us specific steps and strategies to meet those needs. The Roadmap was exceptionally helpful in giving our school different ideas that helped to engage our parents and community.” – Anna Brink, Laurens Middle School Principal

## **TEXAS**

“The School of Excellence Program has allowed us to highlight the things our school and PTA are doing well. In addition, it has created an opportunity to reflect on improvements that are needed and set goals to ensure we are doing our best to make our entire community feel welcome in our school.” - Tod Kuenning, Cole Elementary School Principal

“The School of Excellence program gave a VOICE to parents and school staff in joining forces to improve academic achievement. Our state assessment scores rose up to 16% in all grade levels and subject areas as a result of this shared commitment!” – Lisa Ransleben, Justin Elementary School Principal

“Robinson Middle School is truly a neighborhood school, with the majority of our students traveling to and from school by walking, biking, or participating in a carpool. The safety of our students is our most important responsibility. Partnering with our PTA on this School of Excellence initiative has empowered our community to create change, leading to visible improvements in providing safe access to and from school for our families. This endeavor exemplifies what is best when students, staff members, parents, and city leaders work together to benefit our school and community.” - Billie Jean Lee, Robinson Middle School Principal

## **WASHINGTON**

“The PTA School of Excellence application process has been a valuable tool for Rockwell this year. It has provided us with a means by to take a ‘pulse check’ of our systems and ways in which we serve families. The process has provided us with valuable data that will inform our work in the upcoming academic year. For example, we will share the post-survey data with our newly formed school Equity Team as a means to frame our conversations and work around making our school welcoming and accessible to all students and families.” – Michael Clark, Norman Rockwell Elementary School Principal