



Life is an Adventure Every Single Day:  
Navigating the Role of Principal for  
New Administrators

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MNSAA Conference 2024



# Who am I?

Mom & Nana B

Educator ~ 18th year as a principal - PK-12



*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*

John Quincy Adams, 6th President of the United States.



# Congratulations!

.....on kicking off the school year!

Workshop

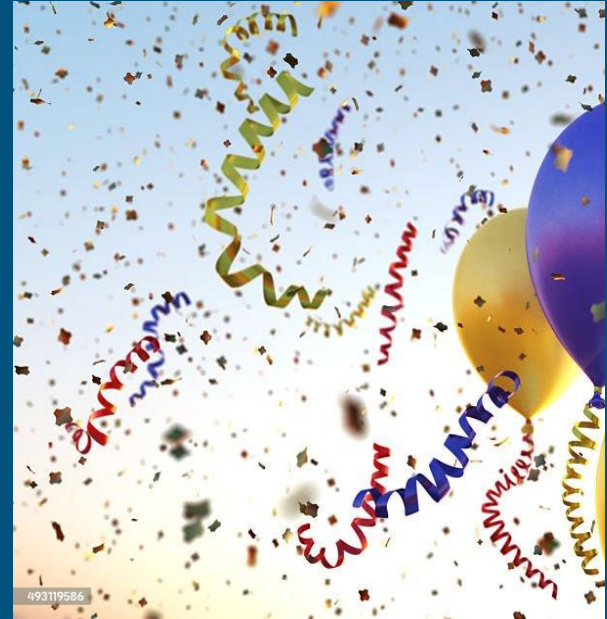
Scheduling

Staffing

Substitute teachers

Beginning of the year events

**CELEBRATE SUCCESSES!**



# Relationships

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Staff - individual purpose, set goals, celebrations, be in classrooms, listen, listen, listen

Students - get to know them! clear expectations and policies, celebrate mistakes

Parents - communicate, communicate, communicate

Board/Advisory Committee - understand their role

Local Public School District - services including title, special education, transportation

# Bonnie's Professional Purpose

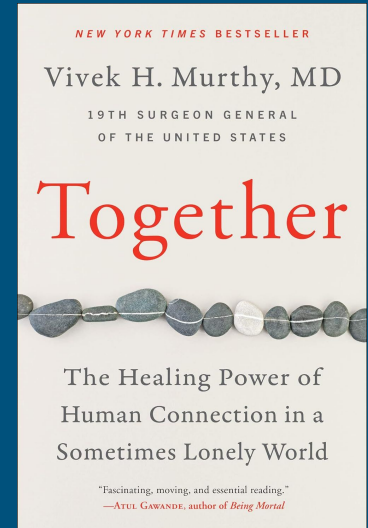
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I lead with Christ's joy to create and nurture relationships that support staff, students and families to best live their unique, God-given purpose.

# BUILD STRONG CONNECTIONS

*Being connected to others gives us a stake in more than our own interests. It expands those interests to include our whole community and thus increases our motivation to work together.*

Dr. Vivek Murthy - US Surgeon General





# Culture

A positive culture promotes a healthy staff and thriving students which leads to incredible growing and learning in all facets of education and life.

Make sure you teach social emotional life skills (lots of programs available).

E.g. \*Top 20 Training ~ Cornerstones: Communicate you matter, Help others succeed, Honor the Absent and See the Problem, Own the Problem.

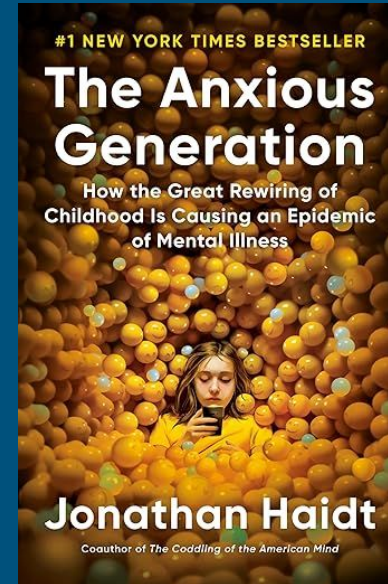
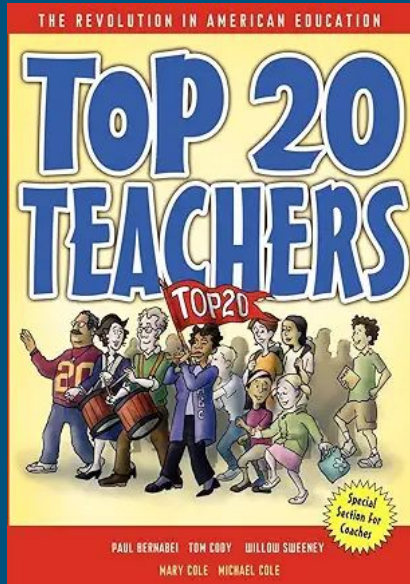
Phones and smart watches - do not allow (recommendation - read \*"The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt)

**CULTIVATE A POSITIVE CULTURE**

# \*Resources

Top-20 Training ([top20training.com](http://top20training.com))

The Anxious Generation Jonathan Haidt



# Communication

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Staff bulletins

Newsletters

Crisis plan

Handbooks

Websites



**BE CLEAR and CONSISTENT!**

# Academics

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Standards

Curriculum

Testing/Data

Unique needs and support



**EMPHASIZE DIFFERENTIATION**

# Accreditation



Become familiar with the significant documents:

Strategic plan, Basic Annual Report, Annual Report (which includes a State of the School - sharing strategic plan, test data, enrollment)

Be sure you are working on the School Strategic Plan and sharing your progress with the stakeholders.

**ADVANCE THE STRATEGIC PLAN**

# Finances

It is not about money, but it is about money.

Budget, tuition, salaries

Grants

Financial dashboard - quick view of the school's  
current financial position



**UNDERSTAND THE FINANCIAL DASHBOARD**

# Facility

See the facility with your new fresh eyes, particularly with an eye on safety.

Awareness of lease, partnership, obligations

**SAFETY FIRST**



# Events/Athletics

Be present to see students share their talents ~

Athletics

Environmental Camp

Theater Performances

**SEE and BE SEEN**





# Fundraising/Development

Understand an overview of your annual fundraising picture and development strategies

Ensure that parents understand the overview of the whole year



UNDERSTAND THE BIG PICTURE

# Marketing/Enrollment

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Word of mouth - give people the words and ways to promote the school - they are your best advertising.

**USE YOUR PEOPLE**



# Taking Care of You!

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Time management - set boundaries around your time

Prioritize your responsibilities and work hard to keep your boundaries. Sometimes that means being flexible.

911 list (squad, team, crew, village) - you can include me!

**YOU MATTER!**

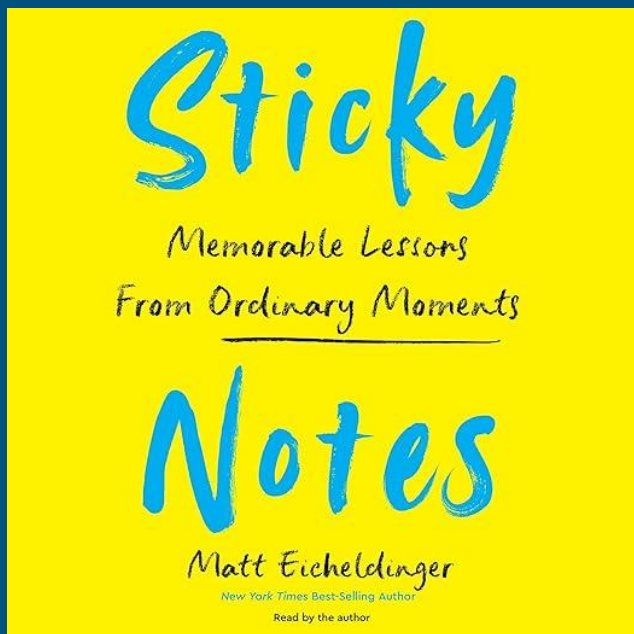
# Top Twelve Take-Away Tips

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1. Celebrate successes
2. Build strong connections
3. Cultivate a positive culture
4. Be clear and consistent
5. Emphasize differentiation
6. Advance the strategic plan
7. Understand the financial dashboard
8. Safety first
9. See and be seen
10. Understand the big picture
11. Use your people
12. You matter

Little moments. Big memories.

FIND JOY THROUGH GRATITUDE



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# Questions?





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