

Leading with Purpose: My Pledge as Principal

I am honored to serve as your principal. I chose education because I want to be part of something bigger than myself—to make a positive difference in the lives of students and help create opportunities that shape their futures. I believe schools have the power to change lives, strengthen communities, and help every child discover their potential.

As I begin this journey with you, I want to share the commitments that will guide my leadership and the promises I make to our school community.

I pledge to put students first.

Every decision I make will begin with one question: **What is best for our students?** I will work to ensure every child feels safe, supported, challenged, and valued. I believe every student brings unique strengths, talents, and possibilities, and it is our responsibility to help them discover and develop those gifts.

I pledge to be visible, present, and connected.

You will see me throughout our school whether it's in classrooms, hallways, the lunchroom, at events, and in the everyday moments that make our community special. I believe leadership is built through relationships. I want to know our students, support our staff, listen to our families, and be an active participant in the life of our school.

I pledge to lead with integrity, courage, and accountability.

I will lead with honesty, transparency, and fairness. I understand that leadership requires making difficult decisions, and while not every decision will be easy or popular, I will always make choices with our students at the center. I also recognize that I will not have every answer and that I will make mistakes. When that happens, I will take responsibility, learn from those experiences, and continue to grow. I will never ask others to do something I am not willing to do myself, and I will continue stepping outside my comfort zone to learn and improve.

I pledge to empower others.

I believe the strongest schools are built when everyone recognizes the important role they play in our success. My role as a leader is not to have all the answers, but to help others recognize their strengths, share their ideas, and grow as leaders themselves. I will create opportunities for students, staff, and families to contribute, lead, and make a meaningful impact.

I pledge to build a culture of trust and belonging.

I believe great schools are built on relationships. I will listen with an open mind, value different perspectives, and work to ensure every student, staff member, and family feels welcomed, respected, and connected. Together, we will create a school where kindness, collaboration, and mutual respect are part of who we are.

I pledge to believe in the whole child.

Our responsibility extends far beyond academic achievement. While student learning will always be a priority, I believe our greatest success is preparing children to become confident learners, compassionate people, critical thinkers, and resilient problem-solvers. I will champion a school culture that values academic excellence while nurturing creativity, character, leadership, and a sense of belonging so every student has the opportunity to thrive.

As your principal, I do not see leadership as a position above others. I see it as a responsibility I carry alongside you. I am excited to learn from this community, celebrate our successes, face challenges together, and continue building a school where every child is known, valued, and inspired to achieve. I will always be here with an open mind & heart.

Debbie Tallon

Country Oaks Elementary Principal