

Pin Oak Middle School
Parent/Community Principal Profile Meeting
April 20, 2010

The principal must be someone who

- truly likes middle school kids
- provides space for students to feel safe and gives them room to explore
- has chosen middle school because it is really the level they want to work at
- empowers and encourages students
- is able to promote the school and works well with administration
- embraces diversity with both student population and faculty and staff
- is not afraid to “look foolish”
- is friendly with students, but able to draw boundaries
- is fun loving, but respectful
- connects with students and listens to them
- is honest, open, and forthright
- is able to say what can and cannot be done
- is able to agree to disagree
- can take constructive criticism
- is collaborative in their decision making, taking input from both staff and parents
- is approachable, and makes time to listen
- will get to know the students by name and get to know things about them
- will attend and support after school and weekend events involving students
- encourages student participation in a wide variety of activities and is supportive of them
- is open and flexible
- is able to protect the master schedule
- is able to think outside the box
- is a visionary who can take Pin Oak to the next level
- will follow through on things
- is able to understand what it means to be a parent, understanding their concerns and understands that the process of parenting can be challenging
- understands the preparation required to be successful in high school
- will emphasize academic rigor and will continue expanding and strengthening the rigor
- understands that rigor does not mean just giving more homework
- will bring in some of their own new ideas and isn't afraid to look at what is/is not working
- is competitive, has a contagious energy

What does the new principal need to know about Pin Oak (staff, students, community, etc):

- Parents are passionate about Pin Oak and dearly love the school
- Parents are approachable and are a great resource
- Students really do have a voice and this is embedded in the Pin Oak culture
- Students have the expectation that they will be heard
- Parents have a voice and sometimes have good information on issues. Needs to be an avenue for them to share.
- Diversity is valued and embraced
- You don't have to be a star student to be valued
- Kids love their school and feel safe here
- There are not a lot of 'big' discipline issues
- Fights, etc are not tolerated by staff and students
- This is a place where it is cool to be smart
- Programs like peer mediation and tutoring are effective here
- Pin Oak kids support each other
- Teachers take ownership and initiative in sponsoring activities
- There is a nice balance between houses (no "we" versus "them")

Top Objectives to be focused on:

- Ensuring Pin Oak is a competitive, academically rigorous program
- Maintaining high expectations and accountability on the part of the students
- Continue teaching to the whole child (academics and social/emotional)
- Needs assessment to improve communication between school and parents (improving and establishing consistency across houses, teachers, etc)
- Development of a more thoughtful, consistent assessment process
- Continue to be proactive in handling discipline (nip things quickly)
- Vision and next steps for Foreign Language Magnet, including quality program assessment from district's multilingual department.
- Begin conversations to gauge for an interest in creating an IB program
- Addressing the academic needs of GT students
- Keep customer service at the fore front
- Understanding the history and hard work that has gone into getting Pin Oak to where it is now
- Establish avenues to hear honest feedback from parents

