

Virginia PTA

Power Partners

Elementary Principals

2021-2022



Nikki Mitchem, Principal, Fallon Park Elementary School

Blue Ridge Region, Roanoke Central Council of PTA's/PTSA's

Ms. Mitchem prioritizes healing, rebuilding, and redefining parent, teacher, and community outreach. Fallon Park Elementary is a school of 570-600, PK-5th grade students, which also houses 2 adaptive programs, child refugee programs, 2 ELL programs, and is zoned to support the local rescue mission/homeless population. Ms. Mitchem let the needs been a motivator for going above and beyond and thinking outside the box to find ways to address basic needs, safety, build compassion, prioritize health/well-being, and empower parents on a path of resiliency and positive change. Over the past 6 years she has not only rebuilt the physical school at Fallon Park, she has been a leader in rebuilding and healing the Southeast Community.

Ms. Mitchem advocated for a LIFT Clinic at Fallon Park Elementary which includes medical, dental, and mental health services provided through Carilion Clinic. She also found a grant to obtain a school washer and dryer to help students and parents have clean clothes. Ms. Mitchem has found creative and engaging ways to elicit feedback from the community and parents, each year increasing parent support and participation. Ms. Mitchem not only treats the whole child, she treats the whole family taking the time to talk with each family to identify underlying barriers/struggles and strategizing for effective supports. On the same day as hosting the ribbon cutting for LIFT, Ms Mitchem immediately transitioned to the school cafeteria where she hosted glow in the dark Bingo and a spaghetti supper for the monthly PTA event. Mrs Mitchem's dedication to empowering families and advocating for students sets her apart as a Virginia PTA Power Partner.



Ryan Stein, Principal, Greenwood Elementary School

Central Region, Henrico County Council of PTA's/PTSA's

Mr. Stein's innovative initiatives and theme of 'Be Here. Be You. Belong' reflects a genuine and unfailing commitment to inclusion—which is a hallmark of Mr. Stein's leadership. Through the Greenwood House system students learn about important qualities like optimism and accountability while working across grade levels and classrooms to support each other and grow.

Mr Stein welcomed families back to in-person learning with transparent communication that included parent information sessions, coffee chats, and the creation of a song and music video, "Belong". He works tirelessly to overcome barriers to engagement for the 90+ ESL families from 40 countries. In collaboration with the PTA, Greenwood ES hosted it's first-ever Virtual PTA International Night, which was attended by more than 80% of Greenwood's ESL students. Through community partnerships Mr. Stein introduced Books and Burritos—an outreach effort bringing both food and books directly into Greenwood neighborhoods, and he secured support for a Gator Camp, a summer program that helped bridge the learning gap many students faced due to virtual learning. Mr. Stein sets an example for creating an engaging and inclusive environment in which students and community truly thrive.

Virginia PTA

Power Partners

Secondary Principals & Superintendent

2021-2022



Bridget Beichler, Principal, Trailside Middle School

Northern Region, Loudoun County Council of PTA's/PTSA's

Ms Beichler has cultivated a growth mindset within Trailside Middle School, which fosters open collaboration amongst the staff, the three grade levels teams, and the PTA. This year, Ms Beichler's focus and commitment to the Timber Wolf Pack was on Kindness and Gratitude. With the return to all students in person, she helped the community reset with relationship building and team building which consistently included the PTA and parents as a stakeholder for the learning community. This year with support from Mrs Beichler, the Trailside MS PTA partnered with a Title 1 school to provide coats, supplies, and volunteers; raised funds to expand outdoor play space with a gaga pit, provided volunteers to support the front office, and formed a parent neighborhood watch system, Wolf Watchers, to keep students safe on the walk to school. Even in her 24th year in the profession, Mrs Beichler always comes to events, supports parent outreach, communication, and collaboration, and is always present beyond the hours of work. Her constant goal in education has been to be an advocate for children and to always make decisions based on what is best for kids.



Dr. Marcie Rice, Principal, Meadowbrook High School

Central Region, Chesterfield County Council of PTA/PTA's

Dr. Rice is a strong advocate for her students, staff and PTSA inside the school as well as in the community. Dr. Rice ensures that her students stay informed, and supports her students ambitions and goals. Dr. Rice attends her student's activities, whether it is games, performances or competitions and creates a fun atmosphere committed to academic excellence. Under Dr. Rice's leadership, the school has received grants such as the Claude Moore's Foundation Grant for Healthcare Programs, and a grant that provided teleprompters and other audio-visual items for the student-led morning news. Meadowbrook High School has hosted County Band Night and District Band Weekend Events for 2 consecutive years, and been recognized by the Virginia Association of School Librarians as a School Library Program of the Year and by National PTA as a School of Excellence. Her warm and inviting personality is infectious and creates a supportive environment for students.



Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Superintendent, Hampton City Schools

Tidewater Region, Hampton Council of PTA's/PTSA's

Dr. Smith has been a champion of PTA and active family engagement since beginning his tenure with Hampton City Schools in 2015. Returning to in-person learning required a dedicated focus on student safety with a commitment to ensuring student's mental health, and academic needs were met. Dr. Smith wanted to ensure parents were involved every step of the way. He required all principals to identify parents to fill vacancies on their PTA units and challenged each school to an 80% membership goal. Dr. Smith firmly believes in the PTA mission to make every child's potential a reality through his school's division mission of ensuring academic excellence for every child, every day, whatever it takes.