



"Meet" Our Principal

"Meet" Our Principal

Elaine L. Saef

Elaine L. Saef

Many of you know me for years, but may not know how I became the Principal of Panther Run. This article is to share a little of my background with you.

I was born in Boston Massachusetts the youngest of five siblings, three boys and two girls. My family moved to South Florida when I was eight years old. So I grew up here and went to elementary, middle, high school and college in Broward. I am a proud product of Broward County Public Schools system and Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University & Nova Southeastern University. My Mother was a teacher and my father a businessman. My siblings and I are all successful college graduates and have careers in the medical and educational fields.

I began my career with Broward County Schools as a fourth grade teacher at Pembroke Lakes Elementary School where I also taught Science Resource Special for kindergarten through fifth grades. I worked at this school the first eight years of my career.

I then transitioned into a District level position as an Area Technology Specialist. After that I entered my career in administration as the first Assistant Principal of Panther Run Elementary. During this time I was one of four finalists for Broward County's ACCLAIM Assistant Principal of the Year Award in 2005.

I have learned many things and value the experiences I have had in each of these positions. But being named Principal at Panther Run was a dream come true for me. Due to this is where I decided to implement my Pay It Forward culture. During my tenure as Principal, I am the Caliber Award Principal of the Year winner for 2017 and I was a Caliber Award Finalist for Principal of the Year for 2016. I was also a finalist in 2011 for Broward County's ACCLAIM Principal of the Year Award. I am the only Administrator in Broward to be a finalist for both awards in their career and a three time Principal of the Year Finalist. I am also the Recipient of the Broward Alliance of Black School Educators (BABSE) 2017 Educational Leadership Award.

In addition to the work I do within my school, I am also the President Elect for the Broward Principals and Assistants Association BPAA. I will serve as President of BPAA for 2017-2019.

I created the PIF-WIAMAD culture to provide a warm nurturing environment for all stakeholders. PIF-WIAMAD - "Pay It Forward!" and "Who I Am Makes A Difference!" This philosophy has proven to be effective in developing a caring culture in our school and community. "Pay it forward!" or paying it forward refers to repaying the good deeds one has received by doing good things for other unrelated people. In this way we hope to establish an ever growing, branching, organic flow of generosity amongst our fellow humans. "Pay It Forward", you never know how your actions can change the world! "Who I Am Makes A Difference" is a philosophy that we all are important and make a difference in the lives of others by our actions, words, feelings and just being who we are.

My philosophy continues to be student and teacher centered. I believe firmly and without a doubt ALL students can and will learn if we teach them. My Staff and I strive to provide an environment of academic excellence for all of our students. We face new opportunities and challenges to improve the lives and futures of Panther Run's children each year. I am thankful that we have such a talented and dedicated staff, wonderful parents and dedicated volunteers. Panther Run is a wonderful place to be and together I know we will continue to improve our education and academics! I place great value on the contributions each of us make to our school every day as you generously share your time, talent, expertise, commitment and enthusiasm on behalf of our children. Each of us can and will make a positive difference and have an amazing impact on Panther Run. Together we will make the world a better place for our children and the future!

**PIF-WIAMAD: "Pay It Forward" & "Who I Am Makes A Difference!" Believe It! Live It! Pass It On!
You never know how your actions can change the world!**

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Somewhere on this planet,
Someone has a solution to each of the world's
problems.

It might be one of us
It might be one of our students
The future is in our hands and the hands of our
children.

You are a teacher, a mentor, a change agent.
Sometimes, even an everyday hero

What you do today, tomorrow, next week,
does make a difference.
But you are not alone in this quest.

Together we can make a difference in children's
lives,
We can influence their minds and hearts
They can see their own worth in what we reflect
We have an awesome responsibility
for the future

And if you sometimes think we haven't enough
time, enough energy or resources,

Remember this:
When we each give a little of ourselves to a child,
When each one of us open our hearts and work
together, we create a more hopeful future for
everyone including us...

The Story of the Starfish
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF WE CHOOSE

One day a man was walking along
the beach when he noticed a figure in
the distance. As he got closer, he
realized the figure was that of a boy
picking something up and gently
throwing it into the ocean.
Approaching the boy, he asked,
"What are you doing?"

The youth replied, "Throwing a
starfish into the ocean. The sun is up
and the tide is going out. If I don't
throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "don't you
realize there are miles and miles of
beach and hundreds of starfish? You
can't possibly make a difference?"

After listening politely, the boy
bent down, picked up another
starfish, and threw it into the surf.
Then, smiling at the man, he said,
"I made a difference for that one!"

Adapted from
"The Star Thrower"
by Loren Eiseley

I look forward to working with all of you as we challenge and educate our students to become the successful leaders of tomorrow. ALL children can and will learn!!!
Elaine L. Saaf
Principal

Panther Run Elementary School
PIF-WIAMAD
Repaying the good deeds
one has received
by doing good things
for other unrelated people.
"Pay It Forward"
You never know how your actions
can change the world!
Pay It Forward!
&
Who I Am
Makes A Difference!
Believe it, Live it, Pass It On!
Who I Am Makes A Difference!

Panther Run Elementary
We are PRE!!!
PIF-WIAMAD