



WHEREAS, school principals play an integral role in the education and growth of children in elementary, middle, and secondary schools across the State of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, school principals are responsible for promoting education and building relationships with parents and teachers to ensure each child receives services that meet their needs to excel in the classroom; and,

WHEREAS, it is the primary responsibility of the State of Illinois to preserve and improve resources for schools so all students have access to a quality education and foundation for a successful future; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Principals Association, which represents over 5,300 educational leaders statewide, believes learning is a lifelong process and the education of our children is the highest priority; and,

WHEREAS, for that reason, the Illinois Principals Association is dedicated to developing, supporting, and advocating for innovative school leaders; and,

WHEREAS, educational leaders face many challenges in supporting and educating our young people and it is through their perseverance and passion Illinois continues to produce quality, career ready students; and,

WHEREAS, we must continue to encourage, support, and recognize those who have a positive impact on Illinois' students and the educational system in the Land of Lincoln;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim the week of October 20-26, 2019 as **PRINCIPALS WEEK** and Friday, October 25, 2019 as **PRINCIPALS DAY** in Illinois to recognize principals and the Illinois Principals Association for all they do to help our children learn and succeed.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and SECOND.

Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2020

Illinois Principals Association Encourages Principal Appreciation in October

Springfield, IL – Lifetouch and the Illinois Principals Association (IPA) encourage all communities in Illinois to celebrate Principal Appreciation Week October 18-24, 2020, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 23, 2020. This state-endorsed recognition was first approved by the Governor of Illinois in 1990 and is annually celebrated. The IPA also joins the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) to recognize October as National Principals Month.

"In October, we celebrate Principal Appreciation month to honor the tireless efforts and contributions of school leaders throughout the state," said Dr. Amy Dixon, President of the Illinois Principals Association. "During this unfamiliar time, school leaders are working harder than ever to find unique ways to connect with students, feed their communities, provide Wi-Fi to those in need, facilitate numerous stakeholder meetings, and more. The list is truly endless. As our principals step out of their comfort zones to lead through these challenges, we know our schools will be better tomorrow than they are today because of their efforts. Please join us in celebrating the eminent abilities that our principals exemplify. We hope that they remember to take care of themselves, take care of those they serve, and let the organization know if we can help in any way."

"School leadership matters, especially right now," said Dr. Jason Leahy, IPA Executive Director. "As a former principal and having visited dozens of schools throughout Illinois, the quality of a school's learning environment and the ability of a school to do what is best for its students comes as a direct result of the leadership provided by the school's Principal and leadership team. Courageous leadership is essential to equitably educate students and work to provide the resources and support they need to reach their potential. It is important that we recognize and encourage our schools' leaders every day. The pandemic has heightened the need for us to intentionally share appreciation for those who do so much for our state's young people."

Principal Appreciation Day provides learning communities an opportunity to publicly recognize the work, commitment and importance of principals, assistant principals, and deans throughout the state. Lifetouch and the IPA invite all teachers, students, parents, and community members to perform some act of appreciation on Friday, October 23rd to acknowledge the leadership of building administrators in Illinois' public and private schools.

Lifetouch is proud to be the official school photographer for the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Lifetouch is honored to support local members of the Illinois Principals Association in recognition of "Principal's Appreciation Day." Lifetouch is excited to have joined forces with Shutterfly to bring together