

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 15-21, 2023, and Principal Appreciation Day on Friday, October 20, 2023. This state-endorsed recognition was first approved by the Governor of Illinois in 1990 and is celebrated annually. The IPA also joins the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAESP), the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA) to recognize October as National Principals Month.

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 20th to acknowledge the leadership of building administrators in Illinois' public and private schools.

IPA President and Elk Grove High School Principal, Dr. Paul Kelly, shared, "The school principal has one of the most demanding, challenging, and rewarding jobs in existence--shaping and guiding one of the very cornerstones of the community. And as we celebrate Principal Appreciation Week, let me be the first to say to my colleagues, THANK YOU for leading forward each and every day."

Kelly added, "Even as we prepare for the unpredictability of every morning, afternoon, and evening, the school leaders of Illinois are proud to embrace our amazing opportunity to influence and inspire every member of our community. Our students, staff, parents, and our neighbors look to their community schools as the foundation of our future. Each and every day, there is a principal there; shaping the culture, building the systems, and celebrating the learning. There is no job like ours--incessant yet incredible, exhausting yet exhilarating. We wouldn't have it any other way."

"This year, we celebrate and encourage our state's school leaders as they Lead Forward.," said Dr. Jason Leahy, IPA Executive Director. "To do so, these courageous individuals lead their learning organizations with optimism, humility, vision, perseverance, and a deep commitment to do what is best for their students. Both research and common sense tell us how critical these servants are to positively influence young people, teachers, and communities. For this, they deserve our respect and gratitude."

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 two industry leaders who share a common purpose – to share life's joy through capturing and preserving memories with the click of a camera. While we continue to deliver the quality photography and service you expect from Lifetouch, we are creating a new, innovative experience that will allow you to do more with your photos than ever before. As a part of our mission to help you share your memories, Lifetouch and Shutterfly are truly better together! Learn more at: <https://schools.lifetouch.com/shutterfly/>

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 6,200 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org

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