

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Mukilteo's Brent Kline Named Washington State 2013 High School Principal of the Year

*Reading rates, test scores have soared under Kline's supervision at Mariner High School*

**OLYMPIA**—Mariner High School Principal **Brent Kline** was named this year's Washington State High School Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals, a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). He was selected from seven finalists chosen from a field of 38 statewide nominees.

The other grade-level Washington State Principal of the Year honorees are:

- Elementary: **Kelly Aramaki**, Beacon Hill International School, Seattle Public Schools
- Middle Level: **Heather Renner**, Morris E. Ford Middle School, Franklin Pierce Schools

AWSP will honor the three principals of the year at the joint Washington Educators Conference in Seattle this October. Meanwhile, all three winners advance to their respective grade-level national competitions/celebrations.

Kline has been principal of Mariner High School since 2003 and is now the school's longest-serving principal. When he took over, he began a focus that embraced academic improvement in all content areas and started a concept of authentic literacy using the motto: "Literacy is Power and Freedom." He hired three reading teachers to work with the lowest achieving students and implemented professional development for staff that emphasizes the importance of reading across the curriculum. Staff and students still pause each day for 20 minutes of sustained silent reading.

The result has been a noticeable increase in academic achievement in language arts. In the past 10 years, student achievement in state assessments has increased from 52 percent meeting standard to 79.5 percent meeting standard. The change has been seen in writing as well, where the number of students meeting standard has increased from 55 percent 10 years ago to 89 percent.

During the last few years, Kline has also led a focus on mathematics by implementing interventions that include daily collaboration among math teachers and an after-school program that requires the attendance of students who are not meeting standard. Ten years ago, only 28 percent of Mariner students met the state standard in math; today that has increased to 75 percent.

That improvement played a huge role in the fact that Mariner last year received both the OSPI School of Distinction Award in reading and mathematics and the Washington Achievement Award in language arts. Mariner also received the Washington Achievement Award in 2009 for the school's improved graduation rate.

One of Kline's most outstanding accomplishments has been his efforts to lead Mariner into becoming a true community of learners. All teachers are members of both content and cross-content professional learning communities that focus solely on effective teaching and learning strategies. Interacting with students is also a huge priority in his daily work. You'll often find him in the hallway asking students about what they are

learning, how their learning is complimenting their future goals, and what their impression is of the school environment.

“Mariner students honored Mr. Kline during National Principals Month (October) with a book that was a compilation of student appreciation,” wrote Alison Brynelson, Executive Director of Secondary Schools for the Mukilteo School District, in her letter of recommendation. “They thanked Kline for his leadership, concern for students, and his commitment to education.”

Kline was assistant principal for two years at Mariner before being named principal in 2003. Previous to that he was dean of students and also served as a music teacher and as director of the school’s marching band. Before coming to the Mukilteo School District in 1996, he taught in the Everett School District and in Clovis, Calif. He holds a bachelor’s degree from California State University at Hayward and a master’s degree from Western Washington University. Kline won the WESCO 3A/4A Conference principal of the year honors for 2012 from the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.

**National Principal of the Year Program**

Kline now becomes eligible for the 2013 National Principals of the Year award. The program, sponsored by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, annually recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals. From the state winners, six finalists (three middle level, three high school) will compete for the award in Washington, D.C., later this year. For more information, visit

[www.nassp.org](http://www.nassp.org).

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