



Strong leaders, strong schools, strong students.

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Mr. Guy Kovacs, Principal at Kalles Junior High in Puyallup SD, Named 2019 Middle Level Principal of the Year

A “We” vs. “Me” Approach Helps Support All Students

OLYMPIA -- Kalles Junior High Principal Guy Kovacs (Puyallup School District) was named this year’s Washington State Middle Level Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Association of Washington Middle Level Principals (AWMLP), a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

Mr. Kovacs was also chosen to move forward as Washington state’s nominee for the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) competition for National Principal of the Year.

Having been a school administrator for 19 years (with six of those being at Kalles), Mr. Kovacs has a wealth of leadership knowledge and experience. In every building he has served, he has worked to create a culture that is centered on students. Mr. Kovacs believes that one of the best ways to help students is to help teachers. He has focused on providing effective professional development in areas like strong first-instruction, data-based decision-making, effective RTI efforts, and more.



Mr. Kovacs believes schools should be fun and that students should have tons of options to be involved. He had this to say about leading his school: “I root for the underdog. I was an underdog and I know that caring adults make all the difference in the world. As a leader, I have worked to increase this type of modeling by all of our staff members and I work to implement programs that identify at-risk students. From our CARE Team to our Anchor Program, from unique student driven clubs to our creative student celebrations, we work hard to be about recognizing all students for their gifts and contributions.”

Says a ninth grader at Mr. Kovacs’ school, “I feel safe and supported at Kalles all the time. It is a very positive environment that I look forward to being in every day.”

National Principal of the Year Program

Kovacs will move on as Washington state’s nominee for the NASSP National Principal of the Year award. The program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, annually recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals. From the state winners, three finalists will compete for the award in Washington, D.C., later this year. For more information, visit www.nassp.org.

STATE COMPONENTS

Elementary School Principals of Washington (ESPAW)
Association of Washington Middle Level Principals (AWMLP)
Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP)

NATIONAL COMPONENTS

National Association of Elementary School Principals (ESPAW)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)