



MARTIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 PRINCIPAL, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

The Martin County School District named its 2018-2019 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year on Friday, honoring two veteran educators with this year's awards.

Dr. Chris Jones of J.D. Parker Elementary School was named Principal of the Year and Cristina "Crissy" Smith of Pinewood Elementary School was recognized as the Assistant Principal of the Year. Superintendent Laurie J. Gaylord traveled to each school on Friday morning to deliver the surprise to both administrators.

"There aren't enough superlatives to express the leadership demonstrated by Dr. Jones and Mrs. Smith," Superintendent Gaylord shared. "We received outstanding nominations for many deserving leaders this year. Both Dr. Jones and Mrs. Smith have truly gone the extra mile to ensure that their schools are positive and supportive climates focused on academic achievement for all students, and I am honored to have them represent the Martin County School District as our Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year."

Dr. Jones began his career with the District in 1999 as a teacher at Pinewood Elementary School. Before becoming principal at J.D. Parker Elementary in 2012, he worked as a reading coach at Crystal Lake Elementary and as an assistant principal at Palm City Elementary. Watching Superintendent Gaylord enter his office on Friday morning with flowers and balloons was a welcome surprise for the longtime educator.

"Being named Principal of the Year is an incredible and unexpected honor," Dr. Jones shared. "I am overwhelmed and grateful to have been chosen. I'm thankful to the Superintendent for selecting me. I am so proud of our district, and am honored to represent all of the amazing principals in Martin County."

Mrs. Smith began her career with the District in 2005 at Port Salerno Elementary. Between 2005 and 2016, she taught first, second, fourth and fifth grades at the school, and also served as a math coach. In 2016, she became a program specialist for the Martin Family Language Involvement Program and Port Salerno Talks Early Language Initiative, a position she held until being named an assistant principal at Pinewood Elementary in June 2016. Mrs. Smith's colleagues crowded her office as the surprise announcement was made.

"I am honored and humbled to represent Martin County as the Assistant Principal of the Year," she shared. "Our district is filled with innovative leaders, making this honor extra special. I am blessed to work with a team of professionals who inspire me with their fierce advocacy for all students. The passion and dedication of Pinewood's staff is the foundation of everything I do as an assistant principal. Amazing things are happening at Pinewood Elementary and I am fortunate to be a part of it all!"

The District will submit both administrators' names to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) for consideration in the statewide Principal Achievement Award for Outstanding Leadership and Outstanding Assistant Principal Achievement Award recognition programs. Winners of these awards will be announced in spring 2019.

To view this morning's surprise announcement at J.D. Parker Elementary School, please [click here](#).

To view this morning's surprise announcement at Pinewood Elementary School, please [click here](#).