

Shadowing Interviews

Principal Interview

When I interviewed the Principal, I asked him what advice he would give to anyone considering administration. He replied, “Never physically handle money. Make sure that any money sponsors of activities understand that they are accountable for all funds collected. They must make sure they follow county policy.” He explained that sometimes well-intentioned people make mistakes that can destroy their careers. He also insisted that customer service is of utmost importance. He stated that our clientele is quite diverse with myriad experiences. Some kids come from backgrounds that will break your heart. Understanding that, we are responsible for providing the best education we can. We may not save all of the students, but with the best effort we can be a positive influence over all of them. He concluded by stating that the principal assumes all responsibility for whatever occurs in his/her school. Therefore, make sure that you always follow policy and rules and treat students the way you want your child to be treated. In parting, he stated that no two days are alike. Therefore, leaders must be prepared to meet and lead no matter what the day brings.

Assistant Principal #1

Assistant Principal #1 shared that this is her first year as an administrator. She asserts it has been challenging, but she’s learning. Her advice to aspiring administrators is that administration is on the job training. It’s challenging, but just like teaching, you learn to adjust only to be followed by another challenge. Next year, she will do things differently than this present year.

She remarks that we should not assume that all students know what’s right. Some students don’t have the support at home that they deserve, so principals must seek ways to help students be successful. When giving out consequences, talk with students so that they can see that they do indeed have options. That’s why she tries to talk with children. She shares with them what it takes to be successful. She says overall, she thinks she’s helping a lot of students, and that’s why she does what she does. She remains committed to remain in leadership.

Assistant Principal #2

Assistant Principal #2’s advice is that aspiring administrators must multitask. You rarely will have the opportunity to focus on one task. When I asked her to characterize supervising teachers, she laughed and replied, “Teachers are human.” She tries to impress upon them that they must meet their deadlines so that she can meet hers. She seeks to support teachers and tries to be fair, but she in turn expects the same from teachers. She encourages creating an environment where teachers become involved in the leadership and governance of school. Administrators are on the same team with teachers and want what teachers want—to give young people an education that will give them a chance in this world.