

For Immediate Release...

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**Daniel Smith Named Pennsylvania's
2021 Outstanding Assistant Principal**

(ENOLA, PA) — Daniel C. Smith, Assistant Principal of Kiski Area

Upper Elementary School (Grades 5-6), Apollo, Pa., in the Kiski Area School District, has been named Pennsylvania's Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Principals Association. As a state winner in the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year Program, Mr. Smith is eligible for consideration to be named the NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year.

Robert C. Farina, Chairperson of the PA Principals Association's Outstanding Assistant Principal Award Selection Committee, said, "In addition to Mr. Smith's daily responsibilities as Assistant Principal, he has played a vital leadership role in planning and implementation of professional development and technology deployment to assist his staff and students as they navigate learning in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. He has also played crucial roles in establishing building schedules that benefit student learning and enable staff to collaborate and plan for greater learning opportunities. For his dedication to the students, families, and teachers of the Kiski Area School District, the PA Principals Association is proud to recommend Mr. Daniel Smith as Pennsylvania's Outstanding Assistant Principal."

Mr. Smith has been an assistant principal at Kiski Upper Elementary School since 2019. The 2020-2021 school year marks his 17th year in education. Previously, he held the role of supervisor of technology integration and support at Kiski Area School District. In addition, he served as chairperson of the Social Studies Department at Kiski Area School District.

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Dr. Timothy P. Scott, Superintendent of Kiski Area School District, shared, "At Kiski Area, our administrative team, especially our principals, must help lead the district in ways that stretch beyond their specific job titles. All of our principals must also be district leaders. No one exemplifies this quality more than Dan Smith."

Mr. Smith was instrumental in establishing Kiski Area School District's partnership with Google for Education. In 2017, Kiski Area was named a Google Reference District after hosting a Google Symposium to showcase how they were integrating Google Tools into their daily routines. In 2018, their district organized a *professional development day* specifically designed to facilitate Google Certification for staff. This resulted in over 100 staff members becoming either Level I or Level II Google Certified for their knowledge in using Google Tools for Educational purposes.

"Little did we know, the foundation that we laid during that time would create the pathway for our district to successfully navigate COVID-19 shutdowns. When the pandemic hit, and schools were closed indefinitely, we created a K-12 approach to using Google Workspace to continue the educational mission of the district for our students and families. We were faced with the task of transforming our brick-and-mortar paradigm to an effective Distance Learning model. We closed our buildings for two weeks while we created a Professional Learning Task Force, composed of staff from across our district," explained Mr. Smith. When school resumed on March 30, 2020, in a distance learning format, their task force continued to lead successful, weekly professional development sessions. Mr. Smith continued to work with the task force to organize weekly topics, hold and moderate multiple training sessions and move the district forward.

Throughout his career, Mr. Smith has looked for innovative ways to showcase the students and staff of Kiski Area in both traditional and non-traditional ways. A few examples of these programs include: "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words" initiative, which created interactive displays in the high school that served as learning stations highlighting the well-rounded education within the Kiski Area School District; and a website, dedicated to telling the stories of our local veterans, launched in 2016 as part of a collaborative effort in conjunction with a modern world history class at Kiski Area High School.

According to Brian Swartzlander, Kiski Area Upper Elementary Principal, who nominated Mr. Smith for the award, "Daniel is a true leader. He is an advocate for positive change within our school and across our district, and he puts student learning first above all his administrative responsibilities."

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Mr. Smith received his Bachelor of Science degree in education/social studies from Clarion University of Pennsylvania; his Master of Education degree in curriculum design and instruction from Gannon University; and his principal certification from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

“Being named the Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year for elementary schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is an honor reflective of the outstanding staff, students, families, administrators and education partners with whom I have worked throughout my career. Our goal has always been to leave a lasting, positive impact on the students and families we serve at the Kiski Area School District. This award represents a step towards the fruition of that goal, and I look forward to continuing the journey with the Kiski Area community for years to come,” said Mr. Smith.

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Daniel C. Smith

About the PA Principals Association: The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,800 is comprised of elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals and other educational leaders and is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

The Mission of the Pennsylvania Principals Association: *To ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.*

The Vision of the Pennsylvania Principals Association: *To be the best service organization of its kind in the United States.*

About the Kiski Area School District: The Kiski Area School District's four townships and five boroughs encompass 102.5 square miles of Westmoreland and Armstrong Counties. The district's borders extend from the Allegheny River to the Kiskiminetas River and is located approximately 33 miles northeast of metropolitan Pittsburgh.

Included in the district are approximately 260 faculty members that serve 3,600 students in the three primary schools, one upper elementary school, one intermediate school, and one high school.