



March 7, 2022

For Immediate Release...

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Matthew D. Crater Named Pennsylvania's 2022 Outstanding Assistant Principal

(ENOLA, PA) — Matthew D. Crater, Assistant Principal of Haverford

Middle School (grades 6-8) in The School District of Haverford Township (Havertown, PA), 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. Crater is eligible for consideration to be named the NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year.

Kristin Musselman, Chairperson of the PA Principals Association's Outstanding Assistant Principal Award Selection Committee, said, "During a year when job duties have been anything but normal, Matthew Crater embraced the challenges presented to school districts during the COVID-19 pandemic and found creative ways to continue supporting the teachers, staff members and students within his district. To support social emotional needs and to create an environment of acceptance and respect during this time, he played a crucial role in the creation of student programs for those with special needs and general education students. Mr. Crater is known for his willingness to go above and beyond for the school community of Haverford Middle School and for that reason, the PA Principals Association is proud to recommend him for this award."

Mr. Crater has served as assistant principal at Haverford Middle School (HMS) since 2017. He has been an educator for 12 years, starting his career as a sixth-grade math and language arts teacher at Interboro School District (Prospect Park, PA). According to Mr. Crater, his career really "took off" in Annapolis, Md., where he taught fifth grade at both Maryland City Elementary and Germantown Elementary in the Anne Arundel County Public Schools for three years. In 2015, his career guided him back to Pennsylvania and his current "home" at HMS. He taught sixth-grade science at HMS for two years prior to assuming his current position as assistant principal.

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Our mission is to ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.

PENNSYLVANIA PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

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*Affiliate of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals
Serving and Supporting Principals, Assistant Principals and Other Educational Leaders*

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Dr. Maureen Reusche, Superintendent of Schools for The School District of Haverford Township, said, "As a student-centered leader, Mr. Crater consistently makes decisions with the best interest of students at the forefront. When walking the halls of Haverford Middle School, I am fortunate to see firsthand how the relationships he has formed with students is both genuine and sincere."

During his tenure at HMS, Mr. Crater was instrumental in the development and implementation of an inclusion model that allows all students to have equal learning experiences. "I am very passionate about creating academic, social and emotional opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities and have focused much of my time over the past five years working with the incredible special education staff at HMS," he explained.

Mr. Crater has spent the past few years, strategically implementing district-wide social emotional wellness opportunities for students in grades K-12. In addition, he, alongside his colleagues and key staff, have created a monthly newsletter highlighting the splendid work of their teachers and counselors, and implemented the practice of administering a screener to aid in the identification of students who are "at risk" of social-emotional-related behaviors. "The pandemic posed significant challenges to schools across the country over the past two years. My mindset was to keep our kids learning, safe, supported and happy each and every day. Doing community bike rides with Mr. Horan [HMS Principal], recognizing birthdays and special occasions through Zoom, crawling around on classroom floors to mark where desks should be placed and developing tutoring programs to support kids and families were all examples of how we continued supporting our community through the pandemic," shared Mr. Crater.

"In Matthew Crater, the selection committee has once again identified a passionate educator abounding with talent, dedication and energy to represent Pennsylvania as the 2022 Outstanding Assistant Principal at the elementary/middle level. The numerous qualities Mr. Crater demonstrates in his service to the 1,600 students at Haverford Middle School are both admirable and difficult to find in one individual. I am pleased that Mr. Crater will represent the Pennsylvania Principals Association as our Outstanding Assistant Principal," said Dr. Eric C. Eshbach, Executive Director, PA Principals Association.

Mr. Crater earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Education degree in educational leadership from California University of Pennsylvania. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in educational leadership at Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA).

In addition to being a member of the PA Principals Association and NAESP, Mr. Crater is a member of the National Education Association and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. He also serves as team leader of his district's Social-Emotional Wellness Team and the Social Justice Team (2020 - present).

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“I am extremely humbled to be recognized with Pennsylvania’s Outstanding Assistant Principal award. The ability to do what is right for the kids and support their needs comes easily when you are surrounded by hard-working individuals who share the same drive, vision and passion for education as I do. It is a true gift to serve the incredible community of Haverford Township,” said Mr. Crater.

Mr. Crater resides in Havertown with his wife, Meghan, and their daughter, Rosie, both of whom he said, “keep me smiling through the challenging times.”

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Matthew D. Crater

About the [Pennsylvania Principals Association](#): The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,500 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 School District of Haverford Township](#): The School District of Haverford Township is a suburban community encompassing 10 square miles located in southeastern Pennsylvania bordering the city of Philadelphia. It is comprised of seven schools: one high school, one middle school, and five elementary schools. Approximately 6,653 students attend the School District of Haverford Township's schools. The School District of Haverford Township offers many opportunities for students in academics, art and music, service organizations and athletics.