



# PENNSYLVANIA PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION

122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025

Dr. Eric C. Eshbach  
*Executive Director*

Dr. Michael S. Snell  
*Asst. Executive Director*

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## For Immediate Release

**Contact: Sheri Thompson**, Director of Communications/Public Relations, Pennsylvania Principals Association, at [sherit@paprincipals.org](mailto:sherit@paprincipals.org) or 717-732-4999, ext. 113

or

**LiAnna Schwerer**, Coordinator of School Communications, Millcreek Township School District, at [schwerer@mtsd.org](mailto:schwerer@mtsd.org) or 814-835-5363

## Sandra Means Named Pennsylvania's 2023 Assistant Principal of the Year

(ENOLA, PA) — **Sandra L. Means**, Assistant Principal of McDowell High School in the Millcreek Township School District, has been named **Pennsylvania's 2023 Assistant Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Principals Association**. As a state winner in the National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) Assistant Principal of the Year Program, Mrs. Means will be under consideration to be named the National Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year. She will be honored by both the PA Principals Association and NASSP at special award ceremonies in 2023.

According to PA Principals Association Executive Director, Dr. Eric C. Eshbach, "Our selection committee has once again identified a talented, enthusiastic and committed educator to represent Pennsylvania as the 2023 Assistant Principal of the Year at the secondary level. The admirable qualities Mrs. Means demonstrates in her dedicated service to the students, staff and the entire McDowell High School community are what we look for in a candidate. I am delighted that Sandra will represent the Pennsylvania Principals Association as our 2023 Assistant Principal of the Year."

Mrs. Means has worked in the Millcreek Township School District (MTSD) for 30 years, serving in her current role as the assistant principal at McDowell High School for five years. Previously, she taught eighth-grade English Language Arts for over 20 years. In addition, she taught high school English and Gifted Education.

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## **Sandra Means Named PA's 2023 APOTY - Page 2 of 3**

“I am thankful and truly honored to receive this award of recognition; this is an award that I could not have won on my own. Thank you to my colleagues and high school administrative team who collaborate with me and challenge me to be the best leader I can be. I am especially blessed to work with an innovative and resolute staff who strive to provide unique learning experiences for our students and support my leadership initiatives throughout the school year,” said Mrs. Means.

Mrs. Means' outstanding leadership and dedication have been demonstrated countless times through her commitment to create and coordinate high-quality learning opportunities at McDowell. Some of these services and programs include the Honors College and Distinctive Scholar Program, the expansion of the Advanced Placement (AP) classes and the implementation of character-building student programs. These opportunities were significant in the creation of a positive, engaged school culture at McDowell High School.

In addition, Mrs. Means spearheaded the development and implementation of the AP Capstone program at McDowell. “My goal with implementing this program was to provide students with the opportunity to develop college-level-and-beyond research skills. In addition, expanding AP course offerings and the AP Capstone program provided learning opportunities for a diverse group of students as they explored their academic interests and passions,” she shared. Because of her initiative, McDowell students now have more AP class options than any other school in the tri-state area and are college- and career-ready when they graduate.

Mrs. Means is also responsible for the creation of the Student Advisory Council at McDowell. “Student voice is essential to creating a positive, caring and innovative school culture,” she said. As facilitator and organizer of the Millcreek Township School District Summer Leadership Academy 2022, she created a five-day professional development program for the district's administrators and supervisors. “The academy provided opportunities to engage in professional, collegial conversations, share best practices and stretch our thinking as we aimed to build a professional community dedicated to life-long learning, continuous improvement and best practices,” she explained.

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## **Sandra Means Named PA’s 2023 APOTY - Page 3 of 3**

“Sandy Means represents the qualities of exemplary school leadership. Her unwavering dedication to improving teacher practice, inspiring excellent student outcomes and being a thought partner to her peers are a few reasons that she deserves this honor,” said Dr. Ian A. Roberts, Superintendent, Millcreek Township School District.

Mrs. Means is a member of the Pennsylvania Principals Association, NASSP, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. Additionally, she serves as the AP coordinator and the Distinctive Scholars Program coordinator at MTSD (2018 - present) and received the Spirit of Millcreek Leadership Award (2019).

Mrs. Means earned a Bachelor of Science in English education, a master’s degree in educational psychology, her secondary principal certificate and Superintendent’s Letter of Eligibility from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She received a gifted endorsement from Neumann University.

When she is not busy with her many activities as an educator and administrator, Mrs. Means enjoys spending time with her husband, two adult children, family and friends in addition to playing golf, running, reading and attending sporting events.



**Sandra L. Means**

**About the PA Principals Association:** The PA Principals Association membership of approximately 3,300 is composed 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).

**For more information about the PA Principals Association, please visit:** [www.papprincipals.org](http://www.papprincipals.org)

**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.*

**For more information about McDowell High School and Millcreek Township School District, visit:** <https://www.mtsd.org/>

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