Outstanding Rural Administrator - 2020

**Michael Wallace**

 Everton R-III School District

Michael Wallace is in his third year serving as Superintendent of the Everton R-III School District in Everton, Missouri. The K-12 School District has 180 students and a staff of 32. Prior to coming to Everton R-III, Michael served in the Thornfield R-I School District for twenty-two years, eight as a 1st Grade Teacher and fourteen as Principal/Superintendent.

William "Bus" Bryant, School Board Member at Everton R-III, shares "My first impressions of Mr. Wallace during the interview for our vacancy three years ago were: he is cheerful, alert, smiling, not wearing a fancy suit, positive attitude, firm handshake, courteous, humble but confident and fairly quiet. I was surprised by how much more he knew about the statistics and numbers for our school than I did and probably the rest of the Board. Clearly he had prepared himself well for the interview. What impresses me most about Mr. Wallace is his passion for educating the students in our school and making sure that the teachers and staff are treated fairly and paid as well as we can. Mr. Wallace is one who always does the right thing. He is making a positive difference in our community and I am grateful for that."

Chris Hankins, Parent & Grandparent, had this to say, "I was apprehensive when I heard we were getting a new Superintendent because I was happy with Dr. Janson and his wife with all that they had done for our school. I thought there is no way we are going to find someone to care about our little school in the middle of nowhere like the Janson's did. I could not have been more wrong! When I first saw Michael Wallace, I assumed he was our new FFA Advisor because he dressed like us and I thought he would fit in well. I found out a short time later that he was our new Superintendent and that there was nothing that he would not do to help our community and school. I cannot say enough about Mr. Wallace except that I am very thankful and appreciative that he is on the side of our students no matter what!"

Caleb Daniels, HS Business Teacher, adds, "Mr. Wallace is not the typical Superintendent that stays hidden from students and staff, instead on any given day you might walk in and see him sitting in a classroom interacting with students, out on the mower, painting the walls, sitting down to eat lunch with teachers and staff or even out playing games with the kids at recess. Many would say this is not professional behavior from a Superintendent, but to that I would say this is exactly what a Superintendent should be doing. I can promise you that he knows more about what is going on in our school than anyone else. I will always remember his passion and drive to make Everton a better place!"

No matter what the issue is at hand or what he has or needs to get done in a day, Michael will always put kids first. He will make time in his day to roll on the floor, step into the hallways to interact with kids, telling them his same bad jokes, showing them his best karate moves, or conversing with them to make sure their day is going good, wondering what they did over the weekend, how their games went, and ALWAYS where they caught their fish and what bait they were using."

It is for all of these reasons that we are pleased to recognize Mr. Michael Wallace as the 2020 “Outstanding Rural Administrator." Congratulations!