



Gwinnett County business and education leaders teamed up in November 2004 during the "Principal for a Day" event. So, how was the experience?

Principals for a Day said...

- *It gave me a much better appreciation for the "total picture" of what a principal and staff do every day. ... A principal truly is the CEO of his/her school...managing multiple departments with very different issues.*
- *Outstanding experience... I simply have a much higher regard for the finest school system in the Southeast.*
- *I learned that a school principal has the same basic responsibilities as the private sector businesses. The buck stops with the principal. He has total responsibility over all aspects of the operations of the school.*
- *Fantastic experience! I loved it! ... What a great, engaged, and motivated principal and staff. Super day!*
- *I enjoyed meeting all the great teachers and kids throughout the day. ... I could see it in their eyes and in their smiles, that you and the staff are really making a tremendous difference in their lives.*
- *The principal I met with spends a tremendous amount of time walking the school and spending quality time entrenched in the overall operations. ... I was impressed at how she personally knows all of the children and they adore her. Every staff and faculty member praised her work, expressing how much they "love" working at her school.*
- *I gained great appreciation for goal-setting, leadership, team building with staff which leads to truly teaching and not being consumed with teaching for the test scores.*
- *It was interesting the number of responsibilities a principal deals with overall. The fact you call them "CEO" of a school is very appropriate. ... They do not sit down! I had an image of a principal sitting behind her desk meeting with teachers, staff, AP's, etc. To say that was not the case is an understatement. She was very visible to students and faculty throughout the entire day. ... I told her she would be extremely bored if she had to spend a day in my office. The only benefit would be going out to lunch!*
- *I learned how much discipline gets the attention of the principal each day.*
- *I had the privilege of meeting and interacting with some of the finest teachers and students. It showed me what a great job the Gwinnett school system does.*
- *It was very interesting comparing the visions and goals of the principal and how the vision gets embraced by everybody. ... Very enlightening. Every business person should have this opportunity.*
- *It is important for the entire community to understand the school's challenges and the excellent work they do.*
- *The morning greeting of students by the principal was very eye-opening. The fostering of positive interaction was set forth from the highest levels at the first opportunity.*
- *I am really encouraged by the innovation and the passion of the educators. ... I learned that a principal's job is a little bit of management and a whole lot of leadership. They have to be engaged at all levels of the school operation.*
- *I met so many hardworking and committed people. When I left I felt so inspired... I know my children are in good hands... I hope the other Principals for a Day had as much fun as I did!*
- *Having the opportunity to work with [the principal] on this very special day provided me with both encouragement and confidence that some of our greatest challenges within GCPS are in the very capable hands of educational leaders who demonstrate a unique balance of passion, love, nurturing, encouragement, discipline, and knowledge of the profession.*

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Principals said...

- *Principal for a Day was a most worthwhile experience. ... Proactive planning and communication helped students and staff to be more aware and appreciative of his visit. As a result, he felt more involved and a part of the school community—so much so that students confused “principal for a day” with “principal” and sadly asked why I wasn’t principal anymore. I’ll take that as a compliment!*
- *It was an opportunity for our CEO to witness first hand the day-to-day operations of a very large business. I think he was impressed with our policies and procedures. ... He was impressed with the degree of cooperation between faculty/staff and students. He stressed his view that we were about “teaching and learning.”*
- *I think the time spent in classes seeing everything that goes on and the high level of performance was an eye-opener. ... We had some very good discussions about the school, education, and preparation of our kids.*
- *It was a great opportunity to show what we are about. ... I think he did not realize the amount of people and support it takes to run a school. I would like to have a faculty meeting and let the visitor talk about his impression of the school. I think that would be positive encouragement for the staff.*
- *It was very interesting comparing our two business worlds, finding that they are more alike than different.*
- *He was amazed to see the wonderful things that occur during the course of a day for our students. (Usually they only see the news version.) ... The experience was wonderful for both of us! I feel like I have a new friend in the community.*
- *I enjoyed discussing the similarities between our jobs. It was beneficial to get suggestions about other ways to approach issues with personnel.*
- *We interviewed [our CEO] on our news show in the morning so the children knew who he was as he walked the hallways and classrooms. It was a great day!*
- *Great to have time to talk with someone in business and be able to relate our jobs and information... Continue to find quality business folks who have a genuine interest in education!!*
- *I think every principal should have this experience. If all principals do it, we could make a significant impact on the community at large by increasing our community networks.*
- *My CEO and president was extremely positive, interested, and full of praise for our school. He made the staff and students feel great about their work.*
- *I think business leaders are astounded at the number of hats that principals have to wear. In a 10-minute time period he observed a serious safety issue and a discussion of the college board exams.*
- *Great opportunity to share our program with an influential leader in the GCPS community.*
- *[Our CEO] was impressed with the similarities between the organizations. I think he was taken aback a bit when, after he presented me with a business card which outlined [his company’s] vision and objectives, I handed him one of the GCPS vision/mission/goals cards!*
- *The school family was very open and welcoming to our Principal for a Day, allowing her to be a true “insider” for the day. We enjoyed a very “normal” and wonderful day together.*
- *I learned a great deal from my CEO, too.*
- *It was an eye-opener for [the CEO] as she realized that the role of the principal is not a desk job. It is very interactive and busy throughout the day...I enjoyed it and would gladly do it again!!!*