

2020 ACPS Principal of the Year



PreeAnn Johnson

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James K. Polk Elementary School

For PreeAnn Johnson, receiving news she had been named ACPS Principal of the Year during this pandemic moved her to tears.

Staff from James K. Polk Elementary School with arms full of flowers, turned up at her home at the same time Superintendent Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. congratulated her during a Zoom call.

Dr. Hutchings described the employee of 35 years as an “idol” and one of the most valuable members of the ACPS staff.

“We are so grateful to have your presence here,” he told her.

Through tears, Johnson responded,

“Words can’t describe at a time like this. I miss you all, I love you all, I appreciate you.”

“Thank you for making my day during this horrible pandemic.”

Johnson has been an exceptional leader for ten years at Polk, where her warm personality shines through every single day. She is a principal who leads from her generous heart and sees the potential in all her students who, in turn, love and respect her.

As a mentor to her staff, she is second to none. She draws on the values instilled in her by her parents, Gloria and Du Pree, and believes in building strong, honest relationships with all those around her. She possesses a wealth of teaching knowledge and expertise gained by her decades as an educator.

Polk PTA president, Carolyn Meza, paid tribute.

“Ms Johnson is an absolutely amazing principal! We are so happy she is being recognized for her hard work and accomplishments. She is always willing to engage with our membership and answer all questions about programming, security and anything else!”

“The kids adore her, and she’s such a good sport. No matter what crazy idea we come up with, she’s game. We’ve made her into a human ice cream sundae as a school wide prize for reaching our fundraising goal. She leads a morning dance party in conjunction with our walk to school event. She gets into costume every year for our book fair, and creates inspiring and fun videos for the kids.”

“She’s passionate about parent involvement, and is great about helping us find new ways to reach parents, and involve more families in our amazing community. She is active in helping plan and execute our school events, and it’s a joy to work with her. We are delighted she’s being named Principal of the Year.”

[Watch as Johnson receives the news:](#)

