



What The Blue Ribbon Award Means to Our School

Voices (in order of appearance)

Barbara Raber, Principal, Lakeville Elementary School, Great Neck, NY

Donna Bettencourt Glavin—Principal, St. Philomena School, Portsmouth, RI

Wayne Ryan, Principal, Crosby S. Noyes Education Campus, Washington DC

Joan Reznicek Principal, Red Cloud Elementary Schools and Superintendent, Red Cloud Community Schools, Red Cloud, NE

Greg Granta, Principal, Woodlawn Middle School, Long Grove, IL

Ivy Sherman, Principal Brookside Elementary, Baldwin, NY

Receiving the Blue Ribbon award, for us, that validates our excellence. That tells us that what we're doing is the right thing for our kids.

It's a very important, and a very prestigious kind of award. It's a very very special award.

This is like the icing on top of the cake. Nine years ago, Noyes Education Campus was designated as a transformation school, making it one of the lowest nine performing schools in the District of Columbia. I was assigned to this school from another school to turn this school around. We've been through a lot in these nine years. The principal was fired, I took his place. The staff was all fired, and I could bring back no more than 50 percent of the staff. We had an infusion of moneys to work with building up our reading program and writing program. We've had a lot of ups and over the years, we've had a new building in those nine years, and we've gotten to a culture of achievement and climate of excellence in that building. And this just—to be awarded this distinction just lets my boys and girls, faculty, staff, and the entire community know the results of hard work. Plain old-fashioned hard work.

Winning the Blue Ribbon is just a tremendous honor for our school, both as the superintendent of the district, and then also just as the principal in our elementary school.

When we decided, as a district, to pursue the BR nomination, I felt that it was an opportunity to say, "We're doing the right things," as a community, as a school. When you're recognized by Blue Ribbon, you're being recognized as one of the nation's best.

The award is a wonderful opportunity to just kind of share with everyone just the accomplishments of my staff and faculty and students, and their parents. It's a vision that we've all kind of worked out together, and carried through. The award is very exciting. I guess it's the recognition for all the great work, and the hard work, that everybody in our building does.