



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Rochester Public Schools Principal, Jared Groehler, Receives Professional Leadership Award**

(electronic photo attached to this news release)



*Jared Groehler*

*(Roseville, MN, April 21, 2022)* – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) recognized Jared Groehler, principal of Harriet Bishop Elementary, Rochester Public Schools, with the 2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA’s Southeast Division. Principals are responsible for a school’s instructional, school culture, and resource leadership. The award honors principals whose exemplary leadership and sustained efforts have made noteworthy contributions to the operation of effective school learning programs—improving education, their communities, and their profession. He was recognized by colleagues statewide on February 3, 2022, at the MESPYs, the premier elementary principal celebration of the year celebrated during MESPA Institute, the annual statewide convention of Minnesota’s elementary and middle-level principals.

Groehler summed up his educational philosophy in a quote from the philosopher, John Dewey: “If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.”

Groehler was nominated by Sam Pearson, principal at Franklin Elementary School and Montessori at Franklin in the Rochester Public Schools District. On behalf of MESPA Southeast Division principals, Pearson stated: “Jared is an incredible leader who strives to bring out the best in others. Jared has been a leader among elementary principals within the Rochester Public Schools. He has organized and facilitated ongoing opportunities for principals and assistant principals to get together across the district for continued collaboration. This collaboration has united, and improved the leadership of principals in our school district.”

Groehler has been serving the Rochester community as a school administrator for more than 10 years. He became assistant principal of Franklin/Montessori at Franklin Elementary School in 2009, then served as principal of Gage Elementary from 2013-2017, and has been principal of Harriet Bishop Elementary for the past five years.

Among his most significant career accomplishments, Groehler includes:

- Collaborating with community partners, colleagues at community schools around Minnesota, and colleagues at Rochester Public Schools to launch a full-service community school at Gage Elementary in support of students and families.
- Navigating multiple learning models during the pandemic with the students, staff, and families at Harriet Bishop Elementary.
- Supporting students, staff, and families through building changes while serving as a member of the design and furniture task forces during the construction of four new buildings in the Rochester Public Schools District.

MESPA members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. Jon Millerhagen, MESPA Executive Director, congratulated the award winners by saying, “MESPA members who receive the Division Leadership Achievement Award are the strong foundations of their schools, their communities, and our association. They are transformational leaders who care deeply for their students. Our association benefits greatly from their knowledge, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment.”

### **2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award Recipients**

- Sam Court, Rocori School District, Central Division
- Travis Barringer, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, East Suburban Division
- Renee Montague, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Division

- Amy Oliver, Anoka-Hennepin School District, North Suburban Division
- Clayton Lindner, Independent School District 318, Northeast Division
- Chris Bjerklie, Red Lake Falls Schools, Northern Division
- Nancy D. Páez, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul Division
- Josie Koivisto, Shakopee Public Schools, South Suburban Division
- Jared Groehler, Rochester Public Schools, Southeast Division
- Amanda Feterl, Sibley East Public Schools, Southwest Division
- Melissa Ness, Hopkins Public Schools, West Suburban Division
- Dana Christensen, Alexandria Public Schools, Western Division
- Elmer Koch, Retired Principals of MESPA

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**MESPA works to: Improve** education for Minnesota students through collaboration and advocacy; **Unite** current, past, and future licensed elementary and middle-level principals; **Encourage** and support a cooperative relationship between MESPA and other state/national organizations; and **Advocate** for the professional ethical, economic, and social welfare of its members.

**MESPA Mission:** The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association strives to be the premier leadership resource for elementary and middle-level principals and a strong leading voice for public education. MESPA is committed to ensuring a high quality education for all children through strengthening and enhancing the principal's role as educational leader in our schools.