Horace Mann and Illinois Principals Association Announce

2023 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year

Horace Mann and the Illinois Principals Association are pleased to announce Steve Diveley, principal of Hadley Jr. High School in Glen Ellyn, has been named the 2023 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year. The award recognizes middle school principals who have demonstrated a positive impact on their students and learning community. Criteria for the award include:

- Demonstrates a positive impact on education and advocacy for children
- Ensures the school climate is positive and reflects high staff and student morale
- Moves actively to implement the goals and objectives of the school
- Works collaboratively with teachers and other staff to improve the educational program and student achievement
- Involves the community in the life of the school and uses community resources for students.

Steve Diveley has served as principal at Hadley Jr. High School for the last 10 years. He previously served as principal at Heritage Grove Middle School in Plainfield for 7 years and an assistant principal for 5 years prior. Diveley has been a member of the Illinois Principals Association since becoming a principal in 2005.

Diveley shared, “To be a successful instructional leader, my energies and actions should center around knowing my community and seeing or learning where I can lead the organization to meet the demands of my community. This includes cultivating trust with staff and stakeholders to adapt in ways that promote learning and high expectations for the community. I believe that the middle school model of common plan time for staff, smaller communities of students in teams, a focus on SEL for early adolescents, and a robust exploratory, co-curricular, and extra-curricular program is needed to develop our young people. This is not done alone, for to implement change requires the trust of the people around you. When they have a voice in the decision, trust the path and methods, and are part of the celebration, improvement in the educational program and student achievement will follow.”

“Mr. Diveley is a principal who engages himself fully in his work and his commitment to the students, staff and community is unwavering,” adds Dr. Melissa Kaczkowski, Superintendent of Glen Ellyn School District 41. “He always puts students first and engages with the school community to build trust and understanding. It’s impressive to watch him build relationships across the school district while at the same time having hard conversations and making big decisions based on what is best for all students.”

School Board President of Glen Ellyn D41, Dr. Robert Bruno, shared, “Steve has been willing to take risks to improve student learning and anticipate change. Steve is an effective leader because he values relationships. He works collaboratively with teachers and other staff to improve educational programming and student achievement. As a result, Principal Diveley has distinguished himself as a very strong instructional leader.”
The Middle School Principal of the Year winner was selected from a pool of region nominees provided by the 21 Regions of the Illinois Principals Association. Steve Diveley will be recognized at the IPA’s annual Education Leaders Annual Conference in October 2023.

Horace Mann -- the largest national multiline insurance company focusing on educators' financial needs – provides auto and homeowners insurance, retirement annuities, life insurance and other financial solutions. “Founded by Educators for Educators” in 1945, the company is headquartered in Springfield, Ill. Visit www.horacemann.com for more information.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 6,000 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois. You can find out more about the IPA at www.ilprincipals.org. Visit http://www.ilprincipals.org/about-ipa/awards for more information about the IPA Principal of the Year Awards Program.

####