Philippa Mortensen

Elementary School Principal

Sacramento, CA · philippa.mortensen@example.com · (916) 555-0186 · LinkedIn

SUMMARY

Elementary principal with 4 years leading a 380-student K–5 school where 58% of students qualify for meal support, after 3 years as assistant principal and 8 years teaching. Raised second-grade reading benchmark rates from 47% to 68%, cut teacher departures from 9 to 2 a year and manage a $3.1M site budget. Administrative Services Credential holder.

EXPERIENCE

Principal — Sutter Grove Elementary School

Sacramento, CA · Jul 2022 – Present

- Lead a K–5 school of 380 students and 42 staff, setting yearly priorities with a 6-member leadership team.
- Raised the share of second graders meeting the spring reading benchmark from 47% to 68% in 2 years by aligning 6 K–2 classrooms on one literacy approach.
- Protected a daily 90-minute reading block in the master schedule and joined 2 grade-level data meetings a month.
- Cut teacher departures from 9 in my first year to 2 last year through short weekly observations and peer visits.
- Manage a $3.1M site budget, reallocating $85K to fund a part-time reading intervention teacher.

Assistant Principal — Willow Bend Elementary School

Elk Grove, CA · Jul 2019 – Jun 2022

- Owned attendance and behavior systems for 520 students, lowering chronic absence from 17% to 11% in 2 years.
- Evaluated 16 teachers a year and led math professional learning for grades 3–5.
- Coordinated state testing for 260 students across 12 classrooms with no testing irregularities.

SKILLS

Instructional Leadership: Structured literacy, data cycles, observation and feedback, PLCs

Student Support: MTSS, PBIS, IEP and 504 compliance, attendance teams

Operations: Site budgeting, master scheduling, safety planning, hiring

Systems: PowerSchool, Illuminate, Google Workspace, ParentSquare

CERTIFICATIONS

California Administrative Services Credential, 2019

Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, 2009

EDUCATION

M.A. Educational Leadership, California State University, Sacramento, 2018

B.A. Liberal Studies, University of California, Davis, 2008

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