



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION



Brenda Kelley

As the Principal of Morris Elementary School in Lenox, Massachusetts, I oversee a diverse student body ranging from pre-kindergarten to 5th grade. Having a passion for reading and holding a Reading Specialist certification, I've integrated my love for literacy into our school's culture. During my time as principal in both schools that I have worked in I have spent a good portion of time learning about how to create positive school cultures. One initiative I'm particularly proud of is the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which reinforces school-wide expectations while promoting a positive learning environment.

Recently, I secured a grant to install a book vending machine as a reward system for students who exemplify these expectations. It's just one example of how I strive to foster student achievement and engagement. Working alongside dedicated educators, we've developed an instructional model tailored to meet the needs of all learners at Morris Elementary.

Amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic, our staff and I have collaborated to adapt and personalize the learning experience for every student, while also addressing their social-emotional needs. We've implemented programs like the social-emotional curriculum Second Step and expanded our PBIS framework to further support our students' holistic development.

Outside of school, I'm a proud mother of two daughters, Dominique and Kimberly Wells, and wife to Brian Kelley. Their unwavering love and support have been instrumental in my role as Principal. From helping unpack curriculum boxes to attending school events, their support has been invaluable.

What I find most fulfilling in this role is witnessing the growth and success of both students and staff. Recently, I had the privilege of reconnecting with a former student who overcame challenges during their time at Morris Elementary and now aspires to pursue a career in education. It's moments like these that remind me of the profound impact we have on students' lives and the importance of community support for educators.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS

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