



NEWS RELEASE

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Garrard County High School Principal Named Administrator of the Year

Frankfort, KY -- Garrard County High School Principal Kalem Grasham is the 2017 Kentucky Association of School Administrators School-Level Administrator of the Year.

Grasham became principal in 2013 after serving as a health and physical education teacher and assistant principal. Since then, Garrard County High School has started its climb to success. In four short years, the school has gone from earning "Needs Improvement" status in the Unbridled Learning Accountability System to "Distinguished" status.

Grasham develops a detailed annual plan for the school's success and selects three main areas for improvement. He works closely with his administrative team and department chairs to set monthly goals using detailed monitoring systems.

"He works tirelessly to ensure every student and staff member has the knowledge, confidence and support to pursue their dreams," GCHS Assistant Principal Diana Hart said. "If they encounter a bump in the road, Mr. Grasham is there to offer advice and a silly story to make them laugh. He leads each department in data-driven, professional learning community meetings and models the work ethic he expects from everyone."

School pride is an essential tool in Grasham's kit. Various posters line the walls of GCHS showcasing staff, students and the honors which they have earned for themselves and the school. He uses social media to further communicate recognition for the students and staff.

His work with community leaders was essential in establishing an on-site school farm. The farm gave the land a much-needed purpose and allowed students access to a zero-interest loan for the purchase of cattle to raise and sell later for a profit.

Grasham is an active member of KASA. He has served on the Annual Leadership Institute Planning Committee. Currently, he serves on the Steering Committee where he represents a voice for all students to help plan the future of Kentucky's accountability system and teacher evaluation system.

"Mr. Grasham expresses a true desire for the students of Garrard County to excel in post-secondary endeavors and life," Casey County High School Principal Joshua Blevins said. "He has consistently impressed upon me that he is a dedicated educator, responsible man of integrity and a true leader. He makes a positive difference and has always proven to be a professional who holds truly admirable qualities."

KASA is the largest school administrator group in Kentucky, representing more than 3,000 education leaders from across the Commonwealth. Formed in 1969, KASA connects education leaders to policymakers, legislators and other interest groups, and provides numerous benefits and services to Kentucky's school administrators.

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