



Academy for Academic Excellence

a Lewis Center School

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Hello AAE Families,

It is an honor to serve as Principal of The Academy for Academic Excellence and to be part of the Lewis Center for Educational Research, an organization with a long-standing tradition of innovation, excellence, and student success. Since joining the school, I have been committed to understanding the unique needs of our students and ensuring that every decision we make supports their academic, social, and personal growth. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to provide a safe, engaging, and rigorous learning environment that prepares students to become confident leaders and lifelong learners in an ever-changing world. We believe every student possesses unique talents and abilities, and we strive to create opportunities that allow each individual to discover, develop, and maximize their potential.

As a resident of the Apple Valley community for more than 40 years and an educator for over three decades, I have been fortunate to serve students in a variety of roles, including mathematics teacher, college mathematics instructor, wrestling coach, Peer Leader Advisor, Mathematics Department Chair, Dean of Students, and now entering my tenth year as a school principal. These experiences have reinforced my belief that meaningful relationships, high expectations, and a commitment to continuous improvement are the foundation of a successful school community.

Since opening its doors in 1997, AAE has established itself as a model of academic excellence in the Apple Valley region by providing a relevant, rigorous, and engaging educational experience that prepares students for post-secondary success. Our commitment to high academic standards is matched by our dedication to fostering a safe, supportive campus culture built on integrity, respect, responsibility, and meaningful relationships. This success is made possible through the strong partnership among our students, staff, and families. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our teachers and staff, who invest countless hours to ensure every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential, and I am equally grateful for our families, whose trust, support, and collaboration play a vital role in creating impactful educational experiences and preparing our students for successful futures.

It is truly a privilege to be part of the AAE community and the positive culture that defines our campus. I look forward to continuing our tradition of excellence while working alongside our students, staff, and families to inspire achievement, foster character, and prepare the next generation of leaders.

Chet Richards

Principal

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