

Andrea Summers

Assistant Principal of the Year

After graduating from Florida Southern College and spending one year at a local accounting firm, Andrea Summers decided to pursue her lifelong dream of teaching. Ms. Summers spent two years teaching in Clewiston while concurrently taking college courses to become certified in Elementary Education. In 2001, she was hired to teach fifth grade at Lake Placid Elementary. During her time at LPE, she has taught fourth grade, fifth grade, and ESE Inclusion. Ms. Summers graduated with a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida in 2003. In July of 2012, she became the Assistant Principal of Lake Placid Elementary.

During her time at Lake Placid Elementary, Ms. Summers has held various leadership roles and attended many professional development opportunities to build her leadership experience. After becoming assistant principal she served on the Highlands County Advanced Academics Committee and the District Teacher/Leader Effectiveness Committee. Ms. Summers is currently representing the School Board of Highlands County as a member of the Leadership Highlands Class of 2016.

Ms. Summers' impact on student growth and achievement has come in the form of reviewing schoolwide and individual student data with the LPE Leadership Team and teachers to best determine areas of strength and growth. By familiarizing herself with the various curriculum materials and the Florida Standards, she is able to participate with teachers at LPE in implementing strategies within classrooms to assist students to be successful in meeting the standards. Through her time in classrooms observing, she has been able to recommend small tweaks to instructional practice that can have a great impact on student engagement and achievement. Her strategy for success is to work alongside the teachers at LPE and never lose sight of the true focus of education – the students.

Ms. Summers currently holds Florida Certification in Elementary Education, Exceptional Student Education, Business Education, Educational Leadership, ESOL, School Principal, and Reading Endorsement. She also holds National Board Certification in English Language Arts.

Ms. Summers' educational philosophy combines her favorite quote by Mahatma Gandhi, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world" and her favorite scripture, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." She believes as an educational leader her purpose is to hold to the beliefs that all students can learn, all teachers have the potential to help students grow, and in all circumstances, she has the capacity to continuously learn and grow in her own practice. Principal Carey Conner says, "Leading with actions rather than words alone demonstrates her personal commitment to honesty and integrity." Laura Sherley, Literacy Curriculum Resource Teacher of Lake Placid Elementary who has worked closely with Ms. Summers for the past three years says, "Andrea's natural grace enables her to carry herself as a genuine leader. She sets high expectations for her staff and is able to communicate those expectations in a way that you begin truly believing them yourself."