



Chad Thomas, principal of Bailey Middle School, will be receiving the title of the 2013-14 North Carolina Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Principal of the Year at a ceremony Friday, May 30 in Winston-Salem. He will receive the honor for being a voice for all children, making membership available for all families, and promoting school unity at Bailey.

“I thought I was one of several in the state,” said Thomas. “I didn’t know that I was the only one in the state. This is a great honor to be recognized for the wonderful PTSA we have here at Bailey Middle School.”

Without Thomas’ knowledge, his assistant principals along with the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) leadership submitted the nomination. Which is difficult considering how actively involved he is. The North Carolina PTA then selected Thomas from applications submitted from across the state. Family participation has increased since Thomas arrived at Bailey. When he came to the school in the 2012-2013 school year, the PTSA membership was at 1,000 members. This year, the membership has risen to 1,500. For this accomplishment, the school will receive an Acorn Award.

“It is important to have the teachers on the board, because the fundraisers and supply drives support them,” said Thomas. “They need to have a say in what we are doing for them.”

The Bailey Middle PTSA included these qualities in their nomination about Thomas and his involvement with the school and PTSA:

- Mr. Thomas is truly a voice for all children. He has developed such a rapport with students, staff, and families that he inspires commitment, respect, and hard work.
- Rather than make PTSA membership appear to some families as an elite group, Mr. Thomas worked with the PTSA to include all families in our Bronco community.
- Mr. Thomas is a participant in our PTSA. He’s willing to put himself out there, being accessible and showing students, staff, and parents that he is one of the team.
- He promotes school unity by personally making time weekly to meet with the PTSA. These meetings promote a collaboration of ideas, not simply a report of one view.

Mr. Thomas echoes these feelings when he speaks of the PTSA. Thomas stated, “This is the smoothest and most effective PTA I have been around. They are supportive of what I want. They make suggestions but trust me in deciding what we want. If they all really believe it benefits the students they fully support me. We have a really good relationship.”