



Gerri Bayles, Principal Lanes Mill Elementary School, Brick, NJ

Gerri Bayles is a passionate and visionary elementary school principal with over 33 years of experience in education. Currently serving as the principal of Lanes Mill Elementary School, she is proud to lead a school that is a thriving center of academic excellence, inclusion, and community engagement.

Ms. Bayles is a mother of three Brick Graduates, her oldest Louis is an attorney for Reed Smith Law Firm in Princeton, her daughter Gianna is an MRI Tech Aide for AMI in Wall, and her youngest son Christopher attends Ocean County College in the STARS program. Ms. Bayles is a grandmother to her precious granddaughter Harper. Her career as a classroom teacher, quickly earned a reputation for her innovative teaching strategies and deep commitment to student success. Her classroom consistently demonstrated high levels of achievement and student growth, leading to her appointment as an instructional leader developing an Elementary STEM program, being appointed as an assistant principal at Veterans Memorial Elementary School, and is currently the Principal of Lanes Mill, a K-5 Elementary school in Brick.

After earning her Master's degree in Educational Leadership, Ms. Bayles stepped into the role of assistant principal. Under her leadership, Veterans Elementary School has seen significant improvements in literacy rates, student attendance, discipline, and parent involvement. She implemented school-wide initiatives focused on social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, and culturally responsive teaching creating an inclusive environment. She transformed the school courtyard into a teaching space with farm to table produce and a special needs touch area. Ms. Bayles also built an in school food pantry to create opportunities for the students and in need to have food security.

Ms. Bayles believes in building strong, collaborative relationships with teachers, students, and families. She prioritizes staff development and supports teachers with the tools and training they need to meet the diverse needs of their learners. Her open-door policy and hands-on leadership

style have fostered a positive school climate where every student feels seen, valued, and supported.

In recognition of her contributions, Ms. Bayles has been honored as Governor's Teacher of the Year 2004 & 2016, Rat Radio Teachers Who Rock, The District Board of Education Mention for Grant Writing for Hydro and Aquaponics Programs, Sustainable Schools Grant Recipient Who's Who in Teaching, and Women Leaders Across America and recently has presented at the National Leadership Conference for Felician University and to students in the Masters Program pursuing Educational Leadership at Georgian Court University.

Ms. Bayles is from a family of educators where her father was a principal and Superintendent, her mother a teacher, and sister currently a Guidance Counselor, placing great value on education. Ms. Bayles is a role model for aspiring educators and leaders and believes that mentoring new teachers is a priority in education. . She continues to advocate for equity in education and strives daily to create an environment where every child has the opportunity to succeed.

When not at school, she enjoys spending time with her family, mentoring young educators, and working to empower young men and women in the community through volunteer opportunities.