

Sacaton Elementary School District # 18

Introducing Ms. Wanda Burton, Principal of Sacaton Elementary School



Ms. Burton has been a nurse at CIGNA Healthplan in pediatrics and urgent care, an allergy office, and taught nursing at the Bryman School. She was a stay at home mom and a homeroom mom in when her first child entered kindergarten. This is where she found her passion for teaching in elementary education. She took online classes to become a teacher when her youngest child started pre-school. When she went to first grade, Ms. Burton completed her student teaching. When she promoted to second grade, Ms. Burton became a first grade teacher. She taught first grade for seven years, then moved to third grade to help students pass math and science on state tests. She felt that teaching writing was her weakest link as a teacher, so she became National Board

Certified in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts to complete her skills. Ms. Burton remained in the classroom for 13 years teaching ELL, gifted, after-school enrichment classes and volunteered as a leader and coach for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H, softball, soccer, and basketball. She believes experience and exposure is critical to education, so she encouraged her children and the children she works with to embrace opportunities. This is her passion as a teacher, leader, mother to make opportunities available to children, learning and growing through obstacles and failures to reach personal success that builds and sustains a better world.

Introducing Mr. Andre Gillespie, Principal of Sacaton Middle School



Mr. Gillespie is an experienced building level administrator who has served as an administrator in several large metropolitan school districts across the country. He has nearly twenty years of experience as an administrator at both the elementary and middle school levels. Before earning a promotion into administration, Mr. Gillespie began his educational career as an elementary physical education teacher and a teacher of Spanish. He has served in the United States Army Reserves within the engineering division. During his military service, he deployed to several Central American countries where he continued to serve, learn more on leadership, teamwork, and Spanish. Through his experiences, he has become a systematic and passionate educational leader who works to make a difference in the lives of those whom he serves.