What You’re Reading to Focus on Strengthening Your Leadership

Reading lists aren’t just for kids. Principal magazine asked its professional learning network (PLN) what books they read over the summer. With a focus on professional and personal advancement, child and staff development, and strategy, your PLN has you covered as you stock up on books for the winter break.

Focus on Leadership Strategy

10 Success Factors for Literacy Intervention: Getting Results With MTSS in Elementary Schools by Susan L. Hall

17,000 Classroom Visits Can’t Be Wrong: Strategies that Engage Students, Promote Active Learning, and Boost Achievement by John V. Antonetti and James R. Garver

Be Real: Educate From the Heart by Tara Martin

Blended: Using Disruptive Innovation to Improve Schools by Michael B. Horn and Heather Staker

Bold School: Old School Wisdom + New School Technologies = Blended Learning that Works by Weston Kieschnick

Bright Ribbons: Weaving Culturally Responsive Teaching into the Elementary Classroom by Lotus Howard

Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress by Lawrence E. Harrison and Samuel P. Huntington

Elements of Grading: A Guide to Effective Practice by Douglas Reeves

From Values to Action: The Four Principles of Value-Based Leadership by Harry M. Jansen Kraemer Jr.

Hacking Leadership: 10 Ways Great Leaders Inspire Learning that Teachers, Students, and Parents Love (Times 10 Publications, 2016) by Joe Sanfelippo and Tony Sinanis

High Impact Instruction: A Framework for Great Teaching by Jim Knight

The Innovator’s Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity by George Couros

It’s Your Ship: Management Techniques From the Best Damn Ship in the Navy by D. Michael Abrashoff


Leading With Questions: How Leaders Find the Right Solutions by Knowing What to Ask

Lead Like a Pirate: Make School Amazing for Your Students and Staff by Shelley Burgess and Beth Houp

Lead With Culture: What Really Matters in Our Schools by Jay Billy

Marching Off the Map: Inspire Students to Navigate a Brand New World by Dr. Tim Elmore


The Power of a Positive Team: Proven Principles and Practices that Make Great Teams Great by John Gordon

The Principled Principal: 10 Principles for Leading Exceptional Schools by Jeffrey Zoul and Anthony McConnell

School of Culture Rewired: How to Define, Assess, and Transform It by Steve Gruenert and Todd Whitaker

Shattering the Perfect Teacher Myth: 6 Truths that Will Help You Thrive as an Educator by Aaron Hogan

Sparks in the Dark: Lessons, Ideas, and Strategies to Illuminate the Reading and Writing Lives in All of Us by Travis Crowder and Todd Nesloney

Start. Right. Now.: Teach and Lead for Excellence by Todd Whitaker and Jeffrey Zoul

Start With Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action by Simon Sinek

The Successful Principal: Concrete Strategies and Essential Advice by Robert Cunard

Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard by Chip Heath and Dan Heath

Teach Like a Pirate: Increase Student Engagement, Boost Your Creativity, and Transform Your Life as an Educator by Dave Burgess

Transforming School Culture: How to Overcome Staff Division by Anthony Muhammad, Ph.D.

When: The Scientific Secrets of Perfect Timing by Daniel Pink
Focus on Students

A Beautiful Question: The Power of Inquiry to Spark Breakthrough Ideas
by Warren Berger

Culturize: Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes.
by Jimmy Casas

Hacking Early Learning: 10 Building Blocks to Success
by Jessica Cabeen

Help for Billy: A Beyond Consequences Approach to Helping Challenging Children in the Classroom
by Heather T. Forbes, LCSW

Kids Deserve It!: Pushing Boundaries and Challenging Conventional Thinking
by Todd Nesleoney and Adam Welcome

Lost at School: Why Our Kids With Behavioral Challenges Are Falling Through the Cracks
by Ross W. Greene

Mathematical Mindsets: Unleashing Students’ Potential Through Creative Math, Inspiring Messages, and Innovative Teaching
by Jo Boaler and Carol Dweck

Shake Up Learning: Practical Ideas to Move Learning From Static to Dynamic
by Kasey Bell

Stop the Stress in Schools: Mental Health Strategies to Teachers Can Use to Build a Kinder Gentler Classroom
by Joey Mandel

Talk to Me: Find the Right Words to Inspire, Encourage, and Get Things Done
by Kim Bearden

Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children at School
by Carla Shala

Focus on You

Above the Line: Lessons in Leadership From a Championship Program
by Urban Meyer and Wayne Coffey

Balance Like a Pirate: Going Beyond Work-Life Balance to Ignite Passion and Thrive as an Educator
by Jessica Cabeen, Jessica Johnson, and Sarah Johnson

Be the One For Kids: You Have the Power to Change the Life of a Child
by Ryan Sheehy

Chop Wood Carry Water: How to Fall in Love With the Process of Becoming Great
by Joshua Medcalf

Culture Code: The Secret of Highly Successful Groups
by Daniel Coyle

Energy Bus: 10 Rules to Fuel Your Life, Work, and Team With Positive Energy
by John Gordon

Fire in the Ashes: 25 Years Among the Poorest Children in America
by Johnathan Kozol

The Four O’Clock Faculty: A Rogue Guide to Revolutionizing Professional Development
by Rick Czyz

The Glass Castle: A Memoir
by Jeannette Walls

The Hate U Give
by Angie Thomas

How Not to Get Shot: And Other Advice From White People
by D.L. Hughley

How Women Rise: Break the 12 Habits Holding You Back from Your Next Raise, Promotion, or Job
by Salley Helgesen and Marshall Goldsmith

I’m Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness
by Austin Channing Brown

The Intelligent, Responsive Leader
by Steven Katz, Lisa Ain Dack, and John Malloy

Measure What Matters: How Google, Bono, and the Gates Foundation Rock the World With OKRs
by John Doerr

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