

2025-2026

The 2026 Florida Principal of the Year receives a \$3,500 prize, while the two state finalists receive \$1,500 each and the district winners receive \$247.

2026 Principal of the Year



Brook Loyed
Patronis Elementary School
Bay County

Community. Tradition. Excellence. Patronis Elementary is a public school in the heart of Panama City's hospitality industry and located across the street from our beloved Navy Base. I led our charge to become a Purple Star School due to our work and relationships with our military families. Having just celebrated its 30th year anniversary, Patronis has a culture of strong academics, committed and loyal staff, and caring and involved parents. With a current Economically Disadvantaged rate of approx. 57% and minority rate of 27%, our students thrive in everything our school has to offer---Chorus, Junior Olympics, Student Council, Earth Club, Anchored for Life Military Club and Baton. Our Reading Program is beyond compare with over 65 Millionaire's last year (read over one million words). Our Gifted program is the largest among elementary schools in our district. Our STEAM program, Art program, Music program, and Media program are all at the heart of molding our students into well-rounded citizens. Through the changing times I have served as Assistant Principal/Acting Principal/and Principal. Twenty years of consistent leadership and instructors has afforded us School of Excellence and A+ school ratings. We have had the lowest staff turnover in the district and have represented in Top 5 for Teacher of the Year, Support of the Year, and Rookie Teacher consistently over the last five years. This culture of Excellence builds over years and I have worked diligently to build these high expectations and achievements.

Finalists:

Martin Aftuck

Middleburg High School
Clay County

Felice Bagley

Dogertown Elementary School
Indian River County