Dr. JoAnn Rucker
Assistant Superintendent
of Academics and Schools

Dr. JoAnn Green-Rucker, originally from Natchez, Mississippi, has worked in the Texas public school system for 23 years. She has a doctorate in educational administration from Texas Southern University and a master’s degree from Prairie View A&M University. As an educator, she has served in various capacities, including teacher, technology specialist, curriculum coordinator, assistant principal, Title I supervisor for secondary schools and, most recently, assistant superintendent for curriculum instruction and high schools in the DeSoto Independent School District.

During the four years of her most recent assignment, she was named Employee of the Year for central office and awarded the Bold Eagle for creating and implementing several innovative programs. Some of her most notable accomplishments include securing millions of dollars in grant funding, landing a T-STEM designation, and redesigning professional development to garner a more lasting impact. She has trained, motivated, and inspired administrators, teachers, parents and district leaders in effective school improvement practices for educating students across all grade levels, which included presenting at conferences across the state and nation.

Dr. Rucker’s philosophy is to hold everyone, from the bus driver to the board president, accountable for the educational outcomes of students. In this endeavor, she is famous for asking, “What does the data say?” She works tirelessly for the development of all students as lifelong learners. Currently, Dr. Rucker is a member of several professional education organizations and serves on the boards of the Southwest Children’s Choir and Texas Alliance of Black School Educators.
Michael McDonald has been involved in education for over 16 years. He began his educational career with Dallas ISD as a special education teacher and coach at H. Grady Spruce High School in 2000. In 2008, he moved into a leadership position in Richardson ISD serving as an assistant principal for three years at JJ Pearce High School and for two years at Lake Highlands High School. In 2013, he was named principal of Byrd Middle School in Duncanville ISD. Mr. McDonald has earned a reputation over the past three years in Duncanville ISD as a collaborative, strong, and energetic leader who can move both students and staff to higher levels of performance. He is also known to be an approachable, sincere, and visible leader.

Mr. McDonald has an uncompromising belief that all children can learn regardless of background when they are given a positive learning environment that encourages exploration, enhances student development, and promotes student achievement. It is also his belief that in order to close the instructional gap, from intent to practice, effective instructors have to get three things right: high quality teaching and learning, effective classroom management, and effective interpersonal communication.

Mr. McDonald earned his bachelor’s degree in human performance from Jarvis Christian College and a master’s degree in education administration from the University of North Texas. He is a member of the Texas and National Associations of Secondary School Principals, ASCD, the National Alliance of Black Educators, and many other educational and service organizations.

He is married to LaCharrye McDonald, an educator in Dallas ISD, and they have three daughters: Makhiya, Mariah, and Mackenzie.
Tonya Haddox
Interim Principal – Permenter Middle School

Having worked for 18 years in middle school, I believe I have the true passion it requires to reach this group of students. I taught math for 14 years before being given the opportunity to show my leadership abilities at Permenter Middle School as the assistant principal for the past four years.

I am happily married to David and have three children. Haley will be going into eighth grade, Dawn Rae will be in fourth, and Karsen will be entering third grade. I believe that the differences in my own children help me to see the potential in all children despite their strengths and struggles.

I have earned the trust of my staff by being visible and supporting. They know that I have an open door policy with them and am willing to assist in any way. They also know that I have high expectations of staff and students alike. I would never ask anything of my staff that I would not do myself.

Students at this age are trying to figure out who they are. With the proper guidance and clearly defined expectations, I believe that they will rise to levels they never knew they could reach. The late Rita Pierson said “Kids don’t learn from people they don’t like.” Students today need to know that they are valued and cared for. Educators have a tremendous responsibility to the future and I believe the Permenter staff is ready for that challenge.

My educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University and a master’s degree in education from Lamar University.
Marchelle Sterling
Principal – Bray Elementary School

Marchelle Sterling, a Dallas native, developed a passion for learning at the tender age of nine. She opened the doors of the “Dabney School to Learn” in her bedroom as an attempt to overcome her fear of public speaking. Although Ms. Sterling was identified as a “slow learner” and suffered from stuttered speech, but she believed that her hard work could make her a successful student. The Dabney School to Learn provided an outlet for Ms. Sterling to confront her fears and conquer her challenges, which sparked her desire to pursue a career in education.

Ms. Sterling matriculated through the Educational Social Services Magnet High School in Dallas ISD with stellar academics. She continued on to earning her associate degree from Dallas County Community College before completing her bachelor’s degree in education from Texas Christian University, where she graduated in May of 2005, Summa Cum Laude. Upon graduation, she taught at Grace E. Hardeman Elementary in Birdville ISD, Roberta Tipps Elementary in Mansfield ISD, and enjoyed a five-year tenure in Cedar Hill ISD at Bray Elementary School. Ms. Sterling achieved personal excellence while delivering professional excellence by earning her master’s degree in education administration from the University of North Texas – Dallas in May of 2011. Her hard work paid off. Sterling accepted the assistant principal position at Garner Fine Arts Academy, and has served in this leadership capacity for the past four years.

In conjunction with the many duties of an assistant principal, Ms. Sterling has assisted with the development of the campus’s fine arts program. She pulled from her experience as a rigorous instructor to help her staff spin their thinking wheels while keeping the development of the whole child in mind. Throughout her eleven years in education, Ms. Sterling was named Teacher of the Year, team leader, new teacher mentor, and has served on many committees.

Sterling has always believed that hard work could turn into success. Her greatest reward in life, however, is her family. After long days at work, Ms. Sterling enjoys spending quality time with Jason, her husband of 13 years, and their 8-year-old daughter Jadyn.
Charmon Barksdale
Principal – High Pointe Elementary School

I have had the pleasure of being a member of the Longhorn family since 2009, as a parent with my daughter attending and graduating in the second class of Cedar Hill Collegiate High School in 2013, and as an employee. With more than 10 years of experience as a professional educator, I have had the great pleasure of serving the family, students, and community of CHISD as an employee since 2012 in several capacities. I have served as a third-grade teacher and math instructional coach at Plummer Elementary. During that time, I was able to support student learning through an $8,200 technology grant I won for the campus through the CHISD Education Foundation. I currently serve in the capacity of assistant principal at Bessie Coleman Middle School.

Before coming to Cedar Hill ISD, I worked as team leader, second-grade teacher and third-grade teacher for Desoto ISD and Lancaster ISD, during which time I had the opportunity to serve on several district and campus instructional leadership teams and test writing committees. I also worked as the assistant director of Fellowship Christian Academy Preschool in Dallas.

Prior to my educational career, I served four years in the U.S. Army where my responsibility was sergeant/supervisor of the finance military pay department. Upon honorable discharge from the military, I worked in the corporate field of finance and accounting. I am currently working on my superintendent certification and doctoral courses with the University of North Texas through Region 10. I expect to complete the superintendent certification program by December of 2016, and I plan to earn a doctorate degree in educational leadership from University of North Texas. I hold a master’s degree in general business administration from Central Michigan University.
Dr. Trevena Taylor
Principal – Waterford Oaks Elementary School

I am excited to say that I have completed 10 years in the field of education and all 10 years have been with the Cedar Hill Independent School District. I hold bachelor’s and master’s degrees in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington. I also hold a doctorate in educational leadership from Dallas Baptist University.

I began my career in education as a special education teacher at Beltline Intermediate School and the following year became an academic/literacy specialist. Upon the closure of Beltline Intermediate, I continued my career as an academic specialist at Joe Wilson Intermediate School. I completed the District LINC Academy in the 2011-2012 school year and served as assistant principal at Joe Wilson Intermediate for three years. Most recently, I had the honor of serving as assistant principal in the first year of Collegiate Prep Elementary School.

As a teacher and administrator, I have developed strong positive relationships with students, staff, and community members. These relationships have served as the foundation for our students to grow academically and socially. Some of my other accomplishments include: Campus Teacher of the Year, District Elementary Teacher of the Year, and character education coordinator.

I have been married for 18 years and we have two sons. We are active members of our church and we enjoy fishing in our spare time.