

Ankeny's Northeast Elementary and Westwood Elementary Named *Leader in Me* Lighthouse Schools by FranklinCovey Education

Leadership and Life Skills at these Ankeny Elementary Schools Inspire Young Students to Become Future-Ready Leaders with the *Leader in Me* Process

ANKENY – November 22, 2022 – The Ankeny Community School District announced today that Northeast Elementary and Westwood Elementary have been certified as [Leader in Me Lighthouse Schools](#) by FranklinCovey Education. This recognition is evidence that the schools have produced outstanding results in school and student outcomes, and because of the extraordinary impact the schools are having on staff, students, parents, and the greater community.

Leader in Me is an evidence-based PK-12 model, developed in partnership with educators, designed to grow leadership skills in student and staff, create a high-trust culture, and help improve academic achievement. This model equips students, educators, and families with the leadership and life skills needed to thrive, adapt, and contribute in a dynamic world.

Leader in Me unites students, staff, and families around a common goal to prepare students with college-, career-, and life-readiness skills that are necessary to thrive in today's ever-changing, fast paced environment. With *Leader in Me*, students learn to become self-aware, interdependent, take initiative, plan ahead, set and track goals, do their homework, prioritize their time, be considerate of others, communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, find creative solutions, value differences, live a balanced life, and contribute to society.

Tara Owen, Executive Director of Elementary Education for the Ankeny school district said, "We are proud to call Northeast Elementary and Westwood Elementary Lighthouse Schools. Over the past eight years students, staff, and families have prioritized recognizing every student as a leader. The implementation of *Leader in Me* has provided all students opportunities to grow as leaders and find their genius both at their school and in their daily lives! Northeast and Westwood students and staff are strong examples to learn from as all Ankeny PK/elementary schools join in the *Leader in Me* journey."

Within the PK-12 education community, it is common for schools to receive recognition for outstanding achievement. Lighthouse Certification is a highly regarded standard that is attainable by every *Leader in Me* School. Schools that achieve the certification are great examples of a strong leadership model and process. They have experienced significant measurable results, aligned to their goals, through implementation of the principles and practices in *Leader in Me*. Schools typically apply for this certification three to five years after a school begins the *Leader in Me* process.

FranklinCovey Education has designed the Lighthouse Rubric to establish high standards for quality and, ultimately, school outcomes. Schools use the Lighthouse Rubric to measure outcomes in three areas: teaching leadership principles, creating a leadership culture, and aligning academic systems. Schools also measure their success as it relates to their unique school. Lighthouse Schools serve as exemplars to their community and to other schools.

Sean Covey, President, FranklinCovey Education, said, "We are thrilled to recognize Northeast Elementary and Westwood Elementary as a *Leader in Me* Lighthouse School. Schools who achieve this Lighthouse Certification are great examples of a strong leadership model, and of what it means to be a *Leader in Me* school. This school has experienced incredible results by implementing the principles and practices related to *Leader in Me*. And we are so pleased and honored to be their partner and to celebrate the success they are experiencing."

Since its official launch nearly a decade ago, more than 5,000 public, private, and charter schools across 50 countries have adopted the *Leader in Me* process, while more than 650 schools have achieved the prestigious Lighthouse Certification. It is earned by schools that demonstrate the following:

- The principal, school administration, and staff engage in ongoing learning and develop as leaders, while championing leadership for the school.
- Leadership principles are effectively taught to all students through direct lessons, integrated approaches, and staff modeling. Students are able to think critically about, and apply, leadership principles.

- Families and the school partner together in learning about *The 7 Habits* and leadership principles through effective communication and mutual respect.
- The school community is able to see leadership in the physical environment, hear leadership through a common language, and feel leadership through a culture of caring, relationships, and affirmation.
- Leadership is shared with students through a variety of leadership roles. Student voice leads to innovations within the school.
- Schoolwide, classroom, family, and community leadership events provide authentic environments to celebrate leadership, build culture, and allow students to practice leadership skills.
- The school utilizes the 4DX® process (*The 4 Disciplines of Execution*) to identify and track progress toward Wildly Important Goals® (WIGs) for the school, classroom, and staff.
- Students lead their own learning with the skills to assess their needs, set appropriate goals, and carry out action plans. They track progress toward goals in Leadership Notebooks and share these notebooks with adults in Student-Led Conferences.
- Teacher planning and reflection, trusting relationships, and student-led learning combine to create environments for highly engaged learning.

The schools will maintain Lighthouse Certification for two years and will continue to foster growth and proficiency in exemplifying a leadership culture and principles. At the end of the two years, the schools will recertify its Lighthouse Certification through a virtual self-assessment, describing and celebrating its growth and accomplishments since its original Lighthouse designation.

Leader in Me training includes establishing vision for the school & district, goal setting, personal-accountability systems and is aligned with commonly held best in class educational research, content and best practices. At the core of the *Leader in Me* model is the belief that every child possesses unique strengths and has the ability to be a leader. The foundation of *Leader in Me* is its PK-12 framework, the See-Do-Get model, and the Student Leadership Portrait competencies.

Leader in Me is implemented through an educator professional development model. Teachers and staff learn key concepts and integrate them into existing systems. FranklinCovey has robust implementation support to ensure success for individual schools, district-wide, distance learning, and online delivery of content. Coaching supports implementation excellence and sustained achievement across all implementation modalities.

Leader in Me is having a significant, measurable impact on schools all over the world and in the lives of millions of students, parents, teachers, and administrators. To learn more about the impact the process is having, see the following [research highlights](http://www.leaderinme.org/research-highlights-academics/): (www.leaderinme.org/research-highlights-academics/).

For more information on the model that has been implemented in more than 6,000 schools and in more than 55 countries, visit www.leaderinme.org.

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About Franklin Covey Education

For nearly three decades, FranklinCovey Education, a division of FranklinCovey and a global leader in education solutions, has been one of the world's most prominent and trusted providers of educational-leadership programs and transformational processes. FranklinCovey's programs, books, and content have been utilized by thousands of public and private primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools and institutions, including educational service centers and vocational schools in all 50 states within the United States and in over 50 countries.

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