



Thomas Named 2024 TPSD Administrator of the Year

TUPELO, Miss. — For the second time in her distinguished career, Dr. Melissa Thomas has been named the Tupelo Public School District Administrator of the Year.

The second-year Tupelo High School principal also won the award in 2018 when she was at Lawndale Elementary.

This year's announcement came at the November TPSD Board of Trustees meeting at Church Street Elementary on Thursday, with members of her family and staff in attendance.

"I have nothing but gratitude for the honor of Administrator of the Year, where dedication meets impact, and leadership paves the way for excellence," she said.

Thomas, who began her educational journey at Coldwater High School as a teacher and head softball coach, is now in her 10th-year with TPSD.

Prior to making the transition to THS, Thomas served as the was Secondary Curriculum Director, where she vigorously worked with secondary students and staff to raise the level of academic expectations by establishing a well-designed course to success.

“Of all the instructional leaders I’ve had the pleasure of working with my entire career, Dr. Thomas has proven to be one of the best.” TPSD Superintendent Dr. Rob Picou said. “She’s a natural motivator and gifted public speaker, and she’s very skilled at establishing a culture of mutual responsibility. She has a strong moral compass that allows her to treat all students fairly, while also holding them to a high level of expectation.

Her resume also includes being principal at Lawndale Elementary and working 10 years in the Nettleton School District, where she succeeded in various roles, from teaching and coaching to being a principal at different grade levels.

A native of Nettleton, she attended Ole Miss, where she was a member of the Rebels’ Track and Field team.

Thomas and her husband, Daniel, of 15 years, have two daughters — Maliyah (13) and Mia (10).

-www.tupeloschools.com-