



METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP**

**Dr. Shawn A. Smith**  
Superintendent

Lawrence Education & Community Center  
5720 Wheeler Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46216  
**(317) 423-8200**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Dana Altemeyer, Ed.D., Director of Communications

Phone: (317) 423-8375 / Email: [danaaltemeyer@msdlt.k12.in.us](mailto:danaaltemeyer@msdlt.k12.in.us)

**MSD of Lawrence Township Announces 2026 Susan Jordan Administrator of the Year:  
Mr. Jered Pennington, Amy Beverland Elementary School**

INDIANAPOLIS — The MSD of Lawrence Township has named Mr. Jered Pennington, principal of Amy Beverland Elementary School, as the recipient of the 2026 Susan Jordan Administrator of the Year Award.

Since joining Amy Beverland in 2016 following the tragic loss of longtime principal Mrs. Susan Jordan, Mr. Pennington has established himself as an instructional leader and passionate advocate for students and staff. Under his leadership, Amy Beverland has continued to foster a culture of academic excellence, collaboration, and community.

“Mr. Pennington embodies the type of leadership this award was created to recognize,” said Superintendent Dr. Shawn A. Smith. “He lives out Susan Jordan’s vision of excellence daily. When you walk into Amy Beverland, you immediately feel the sense of community, care, and high expectations that define his leadership. He is committed to students, supportive of staff, and passionate about public education.”

Colleagues describe Pennington as a relationship-centered leader who creates a positive school culture while maintaining a relentless focus on student achievement and growth. His leadership style emphasizes collaboration, consistency, and visible support for both students and staff.

“Mr. Pennington is a strong leader of teachers and a passionate advocate for children,” Dr. Smith added. “He has earned the respect of his colleagues and school community through his integrity, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. His leadership has had a meaningful impact not only on Amy Beverland, but across Lawrence Township. He understands that strong schools are built through relationships, high expectations, and a commitment to serving students well every single day.”

Mr. Pennington holds a bachelor’s degree in education from Indiana University Indianapolis. He earned both his master’s degree and Administrative License from Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Susan Jordan Administrator of the Year Award recognizes exceptional school leaders who demonstrate outstanding dedication to students, staff development, instructional leadership, and the advancement of public education. The 2026 award is sponsored by Horace Mann.

**About the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township:** The fifth largest school district in the state, the MSD of Lawrence Township serves approximately 17,000 students across four Early Learning Centers, eleven Elementary Schools, two Middle Schools, two High Schools, a Center for Innovation and Technology, and an alternative setting high school. Lawrence Township strives to be the district of destination, a reputation built over the years based on the district’s award-winning staff, accomplished administrators, high-achieving students, supportive community, and innovative educational programs.