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PRESS RELEASE

Two Bethlehem Area School District Elementary Schools Earn Prestigious Leader in Me Lighthouse Certification

BETHLEHEM, PA, June 24, 2026 — The Bethlehem Area School District is proud to announce that **Miller Heights Elementary School** and **Asa Packer Elementary School** have been certified and named **Leader in Me Lighthouse Schools** by FranklinCovey Education.

This prestigious recognition is awarded to schools that demonstrate exceptional student outcomes through the successful implementation of the Leader in Me process with fidelity and excellence.

Lighthouse Certification is a highly regarded global standard of excellence. Developed by FranklinCovey Education, the Leader in Me framework is an evidence-based school improvement model rooted in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The program empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century by fostering responsibility, collaboration, goal-setting, and personal growth.

To earn this milestone, both Miller Heights and Asa Packer Elementary Schools participated in a rigorous, multi-year process that culminated in a comprehensive evaluation. The successful reviews indicated high levels of sustainable systems rooted in student empowerment and shared leadership, while elevating best practices in the areas of culture, leadership, and academics.

"Achieving Lighthouse status powerfully affirms our commitment to developing the whole child," said Dr. Jack P. Silva, Superintendent of Schools. "Through this process, our students are learning to take ownership of their learning, set important goals, and build the leadership skills that will serve them throughout their lives. This recognition reflects the dedication of our educators, staff, students, and families who work together every day to create school communities where every child can lead and succeed."

Leader in Me encourages schools to cultivate leadership opportunities for every student, helping them discover their strengths and recognize their ability to make a positive impact within their classrooms, schools, and communities.

"Our journey toward Leader in Me Lighthouse status has been a rewarding experience," said Lisa Young, principal of Miller Heights Elementary School. "It is amazing to see what students are capable of when we recognize their full potential. Our school community focused on teaching and applying the 7 Habits, encouraging leadership roles, and setting goals. The culmination of our year was highlighted during our successful student-led conferences in the spring. I look forward to celebrating this achievement with our school community in August."

"Lighthouse status isn't just an award, it's who we are," said Jonathan C. Horvath, principal of Asa Packer Elementary School. "From our student leaders to our amazing staff and families, this designation is a testament to what makes Asa Packer such a special place."



Asa Packer Elementary School and Miller Heights Elementary School now join an elite group of schools around the world that have achieved Lighthouse Certification. Lighthouse Schools serve as models of excellence within their communities and inspire other schools as they embark on their own leadership journeys.

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For interview opportunities and inquiries, please contact:
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About Leader in Me

Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation process developed by FranklinCovey Education that equips students with the leadership, character, and life skills needed to succeed in school and beyond. Based on *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, the framework integrates leadership development into academics and school culture to help students realize their full potential.

About the Bethlehem Area School District

The Bethlehem Area School District is the 6th largest school district in Pennsylvania serving over 12,240 culturally and economically diverse students in 22 community-based schools. The district serves five municipalities: City of Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Hanover Township, Freemansburg, and Fountain Hill. The district enjoys numerous community partnerships with universities, businesses, and arts providers that extend the schools' rich curricular and co-curricular offerings.