



Evan Byron
Interim Principal of Ponus
Ridge STEAM Academy

How do you and your school community promote a sense of belongingness?

We take PRIDE in who we are at Ponus, starting every day speaking to our values, including diversity and respect. The staff truly collaborate and work together in the best interest of students. We have an abundance of clubs, sports, and other opportunities for

students to get involved and express their interests, with staff stepping in to support and invest in those interests.

What do you value most about your staff?

In the face of complexity and challenges, the staff finds a way to continue to improve and push forward the best interests of students and the community. They give feedback, show pride in our work, and work tirelessly and with maximum effort to support the academic, social, and emotional goals of our students. They work tirelessly to operationalize the dreams of children.

How does your school community help you to be a better principal?

They are the ultimate thought partners. They share their expertise, their experiences, their inquiries, and their noticings. Our families and staff communicate openly with each other, with me, and with students. We address what needs to be looked out for and work together to come up with potential solutions to make us all better, including me and how I can best support our community's needs.

What are you most proud of and what are you striving to do better?

I am proud of the continued faith our families and students have in our work. Students vote with their feet, and we consistently have a high number of students who seek out and choose to come to Ponus, and are consistently in attendance when they choose to come here.

With it being my 8th year at Ponus and 15th in Norwalk, I have had the honor and privilege of witnessing where we have been, seeing the work that led us to where we are now, and supporting where we are headed. I am proud of the work our staff has done in actualizing our STEAM vision, in the products and experiences our students have been provided and created, and strive to continuously improve my work and leadership to hear and serve the continued needs and interests of the 750 students and staff who come to this building every day seeking out fulfilling experiences for their present and better outcomes for their future.

