Randall Austin
Principal of Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary School



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

Belongingness at Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary is actively built through inclusive culture, communication and traditions and centered on our students. At Shaw, something that is often said is, every shark is all of our sharks. We take pride in building relationships with all students across our school. These efforts are made through Book buddies between grade levels; Fin Fun Friday; and school-wide enrichment called “Shark Clubs,” unified with our schoolwide PBIS framework, S.H.A.R.K, create an environment where every student understands they are an integral part of our community.

What do you value most about your staff?

The ability of our staff to balance high academic expectations for students with genuine joy and community building is exceptional. They are deeply committed to professional growth and student outcomes, At the same time, they are fully invested in the heart of the school, willingly participating in morale boosting activities during and after school shows the commitment our staff have to connecting with our community at large.

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

The collaborative nature of our community allows me to reflect and refine ways to support every member of our community.



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

Most Proud Of: I am incredibly proud of our successful navigation of founding Dr. Ruby Shaw Elementary School, and the vibrant and inclusive culture we have built. Creating strong alignments with the Norwalk Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate, fostering global citizens and synergistic collaborators.

Striving to Do Better: I am focused on elevating academic rigor, as well as ensuring all of our students are in attendance everyday to ensure they have everything they need to succeed.