

PRINCIPAL SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Jacob LeBlanc is very hands-on with his students, often dropping by classrooms to participate in the lessons



Katy Junior High is one of the few that offers the opportunity to build a wood project from scratch



Dr. LeBlanc believes that the best way to connect with students and staff is to be visible and accessible

A Katy Magazine feature highlighting the hard work of Katy ISD principals.

Meet Dr. Jacob LeBlanc

Katy Junior High principal leads the Tigers by example, setting the standard for a tradition of excellence

Written by Kirsten Cornell | Photography by KJH Yearbook Staff

Katy Junior High (KJH), which opened in 1965, was the first junior high school established in Katy. It developed in a proud community, steeped in traditions that value hard work and determination.

“We are working hard to provide the community with the strongest, most well-rounded students in the district,” says Dr. Jacob D. LeBlanc, principal at KJH. “This means sticking with the legacy that the Katy community expects from us relative to our motto, ‘A Tradition of Excellence.’ We rely on traditions as we prepare our Tigers for the future.”

Building A Better Tomorrow

Although Dr. LeBlanc did not always set out to become an educator, the profession was a natural fit. “All I knew was that I needed to go to college and get an education. I simply gravitated toward education; it was a calling,” he says.

Beginning his career as a special education teacher at an alternative school, Dr. LeBlanc served in a variety of roles in Huntsville, Trinity, Willis, and Katy ISD. Before leading the KJH Tigers, he was in leadership roles at both Sundown and Wolfe elementary schools.

“In over two decades, I have worked in many schools and districts. My goal at each stop is a simple one; I want to leave each better than I found it,” says Dr. LeBlanc. “Since I have been at KJH, many positives have occurred thanks to the awesome folks I work with.”

Learning With Passion

Having a passion for students and education has fueled Dr. LeBlanc’s success. “If you don’t love people, it matters not how smart you are, you will not excel,” he says.

One of the primary tasks Dr. LeBlanc has pursued at KJH is the use of in-school tutors. “Research proves the benefits from a practical standpoint, and I, too, have seen the benefits,” he explains. “Students and teachers are tired after school, so keeping them after hours is a challenge. Getting them during the day after the delivery of the first instruction allows for increased learning in small groups.” For Dr. LeBlanc and his staff, this has amounted to tremendous progress among their students.

He also agrees that Katy ISD provides optimal learning for all students, regardless of the school. “I have found

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- Dr. Jacob LeBlanc,
Katy Junior High principal

that we are one of the few junior high campuses that offer students the opportunity to build a wood project from scratch. One of our assistant principals started a reading program with our neighboring elementary, which is really cool,” he adds.

KJH also hosts a student roundtable and a parent roundtable modeled after district initiatives, for student-parent input on how their initiatives and programs can continue to improve. “I started the roundtable to give them ownership in their school,” he says.

Visible Leadership

Dr. LeBlanc believes that visibility is the best way to connect with people. “I constantly walk the halls and visit classrooms both formally and informally. I spend time in the cafeteria during all lunches on a regular basis. This puts me in contact with students,” he says.

As principal, he also makes it a point to walk the entire campus each morning greeting every adult he sees. “The only way to connect is to put yourself out there,” he adds. Dr. LeBlanc is also known for attending as many extracurricular activities as possible.

Advice for Educators

His biggest advice to upcoming educators is, “Teaching is a marathon, not a sprint, meaning students develop at different rates, just as adults do.” Dr. LeBlanc encourages educators not to get frustrated when their efforts do not cause immediate, positive results.

Secondly, never forget why you became an educator. “It wasn’t for fortune or fame. Rather, it is a calling. You chose to make a difference,” he says. “Rely on others for help. Teaching can be stressful. Collaborate with peers, and don’t be afraid to learn. We never stop being students no matter how old we get.”

Dr. LeBlanc’s favorite aspect of his job is still spending time in classrooms and seeing students engaged and excited about learning. “Education is a teacher’s life, when that can be shared and students get excited about it, nothing could come close to the satisfaction that it brings.” **KM**

KIRSTEN CORNELL is a lead associate editor at Katy Magazine. She admires Dr. Jacob LeBlanc’s passionate and fun-loving approach to education.



Tiger Tidbits

Principal: Dr. Jacob LeBlanc

Vice principals: Dr. Sonerka Mouton, William “Bill” Roberts, and Dr. William F. “Bill” Wood

Student support: Rahn Beaty

School colors: Red and white

Mascot: Tiger

Location: 5350 Franz Rd.

Motto: “A tradition of excellence.”

Year opened: 1965

Current enrollment: 1,288