

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

Passionate Principal Carra Fleming

Beck Junior High principal combines fun, high standards, and enthusiasm to help her students discover the joy of learning

Written by Gail G. Collins | Photography by Shanna Kenney

Some days when Principal Carra Fleming steps into the halls at Beck Junior High, she has pink hair – and it suits her. Executive educators from another era sat tucked away in offices where kids visited only when they had misbehaved. Today’s principals greet kids as they enter schools to build relationships focused on positive outcomes. Like Fleming, they join fundraising activities, whose high earners receive a blast of hair color spray.

A Love for Students

Fleming comes from a family of educators - her great-grandmother taught in a one-room schoolhouse - but it is her attitude that draws students in. “Kids are the neatest people on the planet,” she says. “I have a passion for kids and find it an honor to work with them.”

She has built her career in Katy ISD, forging her skills as a fourth-grade instructional coordinator, becoming assistant principal at Winborn, serving as principal at 29 years old for Hayes, and opening both Kilpatrick and Holland, all elementary schools, before moving to Beck.

Beck is named for Rodger and Ellen Beck, both Katy educators, who were beloved as administrators and coaches. Fleming says, “Every decision is based on making them proud.” She relates the community’s love for Beck with generations of students having passed through their doors. “Beck is a home and true family - from the staff to the kids to the parents - who truly care for one another.”

Pennies and Selfies

District programs keep a school relevant, and Katy ISD’s are top-notch. Fleming claims the input comes from Advisory Club, whose members offer feedback on Beck, empowering the kids. The Java Club meets to learn all things computer,

plus there is Garden Club, and an Internally Competitive Math Club spearheaded by Fleming, where every seat is filled when they meet.

Fundraising activities that are organized by students, increase parent involvement at an age where kids try to keep them at arm’s length. “Bahama Bulldog Day, Selfies with Santa for social fun, or themed days need heavy parent participation to pull off the fun,” Fleming says. Student Council and Junior Honor Society presidents and sponsors select the charities with Fleming and push awareness with Pennies for Patients to aid blood cancers, for example.



Fleming considers it an honor to work with her students at Beck Junior High

Awarding Excellence

New schools are always popping up in growing areas like Katy, but Fleming feels it is about quality. She represents excellence and is always

improving with research-based teaching strategies, loyalty, and pride in her staff. The quality shows in their biggest claim as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and Texas Business and Education Coalition award with standing in the top four percent of junior highs in the state. She points out that any wins are student-oriented.

The year ahead promises new scheduling to allow extra time for students and teachers, plus rotations in tutorials with a focus to Teach Like a Champion, urging campus-wide consistency and expectations as a framework for learning. Fleming feels this backs her inherent trait for staff to remember they are servants, and to be a swimmer, not a lifeguard, meaning to be among the people involved. **KM**

GAIL G. COLLINS writes internationally for magazines and has co-written two books on expatriate life that fund children’s education.



Bulldog Bites

Mascot: Bulldogs
Colors: Maroon and white
Principal: Carra Fleming
Vice principals: Dan DeYoung, Marsha Dufner, and Kevin Weber
Location: 5200 S. Fry Rd.
Motto: Never stop improving.
Year opened: 1996
Enrollment: 1,077 Students

Carra Fleming has served at several Katy ISD campuses including Winborn, Hayes, Kilpatrick, and Holland Elementary Schools, before receiving her position at Beck Junior High. She is known for being a highly creative, caring educator who stays very involved with her students, parents, and staff.

