



Gina Cobb has served at Katy Junior High, Cinco Ranch High School, Morton Ranch Junior High, Morton Ranch High School, and West Memorial Junior High

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

Principal Gina Cobb

West Memorial Junior High principal serves up success

Written by Shetye Cypher | Photography by Anetrius Wallace

Gina Cobb knew she wanted to pursue education because of her seventh-grade math teacher and two aunts in education, one of whom retired from Katy ISD after 29 years.

“I feel the most important traits of a principal are being visible, trust, being an effective communicator, and building relationships,” says Cobb.

Path to Principal

Her path to becoming West Memorial Junior High’s (WMJH) principal includes being a math teacher and coach at Katy Junior High, an assistant soccer coach at Cinco Ranch High School, a math/algebra teacher and coach at Morton Ranch Junior High, and an algebra teacher, head soccer coach, assistant principal and associate principal at Morton Ranch High School.

Cobb believes wholeheartedly that every day is a new chance to meet and build a relationship with someone new, an opportunity to make a difference no matter how big or small. “It is important that you love your job. For me, it’s all about the kids,” Cobb says. She also points out that professionals are in a constant state of learning and must be open to new ideas. “I’ve learned that attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”

Making a Connection

Cobb knows the value of making time to connect with her students. She does this in a variety of ways such as face-to-face conversations, lunchtime conversations in the cafeteria, attending and taking interest in their activities, the student round table, mentoring (Adopt-A-Jag), student and staff celebrations and recognitions, Jaguar of the Week, and the Souper Bowl faculty cook-off.

Cobb also incorporates technology into her student interaction utilizing the Twitter Bingo Challenge, social media, and the WMJH blog. "As principal, I have instilled positive behavior supports, clear expectations (ROAR), use of technology in the classroom, increased parent participation and opportunities, cub camp for incoming sixth-graders and their parents, and orange out (school pride)," she says.

Cobb feels the school has a true sense of community because of its background. The school is also named after the community it is in. "We were the second junior high added to the district so we have had a long-standing presence in the neighborhood," says Cobb. "Our size allows us to get to know our students, their families, and their stories. Many of our parents and staff were once WMJH students as well!"

Enriching Education

WMJH offers its students a variety of clubs and activities to be involved in including robotics, destination imagination, science Olympiad, creative writing, book club, coding club, chess club, hour of code, gems (girls club), gents (boys club), and jag buddies, just to name a few.

"Our parents are the best and help with specific program needs, events, and are always donating their time and items whenever needed. Our PTA membership is on the rise as are our volunteers," says Cobb. "Many organizations participate in service projects to recognize our first responders, local nursing homes, toy drives, and local food drives. We host a town pep rally for community support, a veteran's day program, and a community glow run with West Memorial Elementary."

She feels her highest accomplishment so far is working with the Campus Advisory Team to formulate their mission and vision for the school, which includes learning, students, teachers, and the community.

"Everyone works hard to get to know your name and build a relationship with you. Our staff goes the extra mile to know your story and show they care about you," says Cobb. "At WMJH, we want you to be involved and participate in as many activities as possible and try to offer something that meets everyone's needs and interests." **KM**

SHETYE CYPHER is a freelance writer who is also the journalism teacher and publications adviser at Tompkins High School.

Cobb often meets with students in the cafeteria or the library



Cobb incorporates social media as a way of interacting with her students



Jaguar Fun Facts

SCHOOL COLORS Orange and black

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS Shane Brummett and Susie Garza

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (for student support) Lynette Cornell

LOCATION 22311 Provincial Blvd.

YEAR OPENED 1976

CURRENT ENROLLMENT 750

TWITTER HANDLE @WMJHjaguars

HASHTAG #WMJHpride