

WOODCREEK ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL Ronnie Mosher

Ronnie Mosher, once a troubled teen, now works hard to invest in students and infuse them with excellence



Ronnie Mosher, once written off by teachers as a "bad kid," is now investing in young lives as the principal at WoodCreek Elementary School



Teachers around the world use Mosher's videos as examples in their own teaching environments



Mosher is known around campus for his fun-loving personality and ability to connect with students

Written by Lana Timbs and Kirsten Cornell | Photography by Sara Isola

Ronnie Mosher wasn't always the advocate for education that he is today. Labeled a "troubled teen" and at risk for being voted most unlikely to succeed, Mosher met influences in his life that helped him become one of the best and technologically innovative principals in Katy ISD. He leads WoodCreek Elementary (WCE) with love, passion, excellence, - and videos.

The Forgotten Student

Mosher was not a strong student. Described by his teachers as unmotivated, lazy, and a poor reader, he felt that many teachers simply wrote him off. “In short, by the time I was in high school, the teachers knew who I was before I showed up in class,” adds Mosher.

Later known as rebellious, disobedient, and at risk of dropping out, Mosher was escorted off campus by the police; a young man who had lost his way. He says that he thought by his 21st birthday he would be in jail, or worse.

“Only a few looked past my baggage and saw me,” recalls Mosher. “What changed me was how those educators loved me even though I was not very lovable.” It was one such teacher at Crosby High School that helped reroute Mosher’s path.

A Turning Point

At the age of 17, Mosher met his match in a science classroom when Mr. Powers refused to let Mosher skate by without doing his schoolwork. “He would tell me in his thick Texas accent, ‘Boy, you will think in this classroom.’ He really meant it, too,” Mosher recalls.

Powers was also instrumental in reuniting Mosher and his father. “My dad had disappeared from my life years earlier and we did not have a good relationship,” he explains.

Others came alongside Mosher and began to build him up. One evening he was invited to his girlfriend’s home where her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Haas, along with his assistant principal, Mr. Ellisor, were gathered to speak with him.

“That night, that rebellious boy died and a new person was born. I made a decision to follow Jesus and that forever changed my life,” he says.

After that, Mosher noticed that his life slowly began to change. He took an interest in school and dropped some of the bad habits that had been plaguing him. At 20 years old, he graduated from high school and became the first person in his family to attend college.

Call to Education

Mosher knew that when he felt the tug to pursue being a teacher and later a principal, he was “being called” to the profession. “However, I would be lying if I didn’t think that these kind educators didn’t influence my decision to devote my career to education in public school,” he admits.

Mosher reflects that the best teachers he had truly loved him. A lesson he strives to live out every day at WCE. “I knew this from their actions. To them, being an educator was more than a job,” he says. “It was an opportunity to love others and impact the world. I pray that I could be half the educator they were.”

Skateboarding to School

One thing that sets Mosher apart from other Katy ISD principals are his vlogs, or video blogs. With an inside look at WCE, his office, even the nurse’s station, these vlogs are an innovative way to connect with students and their families. “I feel a little crazy for putting myself out there on YouTube, but the vlogs have allowed me to connect with my community and a larger audience around the world,” he says.

Don’t be surprised if when viewing these vlogs you see Mosher bust out some of his signature dance moves, a Chewbacca impression, or even skateboard into the school. “I love being silly. That part comes naturally to me. Therefore, I don’t really see my silliness as crazy. It’s normal,” he says.

Walking through the halls in front of others while talking to a camera and opening up the comments on the videos are times that Mosher has laid himself out there for whatever may happen. However, he admits that he felt the most vulnerable about demonstrating his skateboarding skills. His family of four all skateboard together and his children encouraged him to put it out there. But Mosher says he still had concerns. “I thought to myself, ‘That’s not what a principal should do. What will the parents think of me?’ But, I decided to embrace my vulnerability and share a little more about myself with my amazing community,” he says. “As they have every time, they embraced me and didn’t judge me for skateboarding around the school.”

Creating the Future

Mosher embraces WCE with love and a commitment to excellence. His dedication and willingness to relate to children in creative ways that interest them places him in the highest category of caring educators. He would like WCE to be known for how they love people. “Loving others might be hard and inconvenient, but it is not meaningless. It is never wasted. You may not see the impact, but love never fails,” he says. “We want to change the world for the better. We want to create the future.” **KM**

MORE ABOUT MOSHER

- ★ Huge *Star Wars* fan
- ★ Plays the drums
- ★ Took breakdancing lessons in the 80’s
- ★ His whole family skateboards
- ★ Enjoyed math and reading in college
- ★ His family teaches a first-grade Sunday school class together





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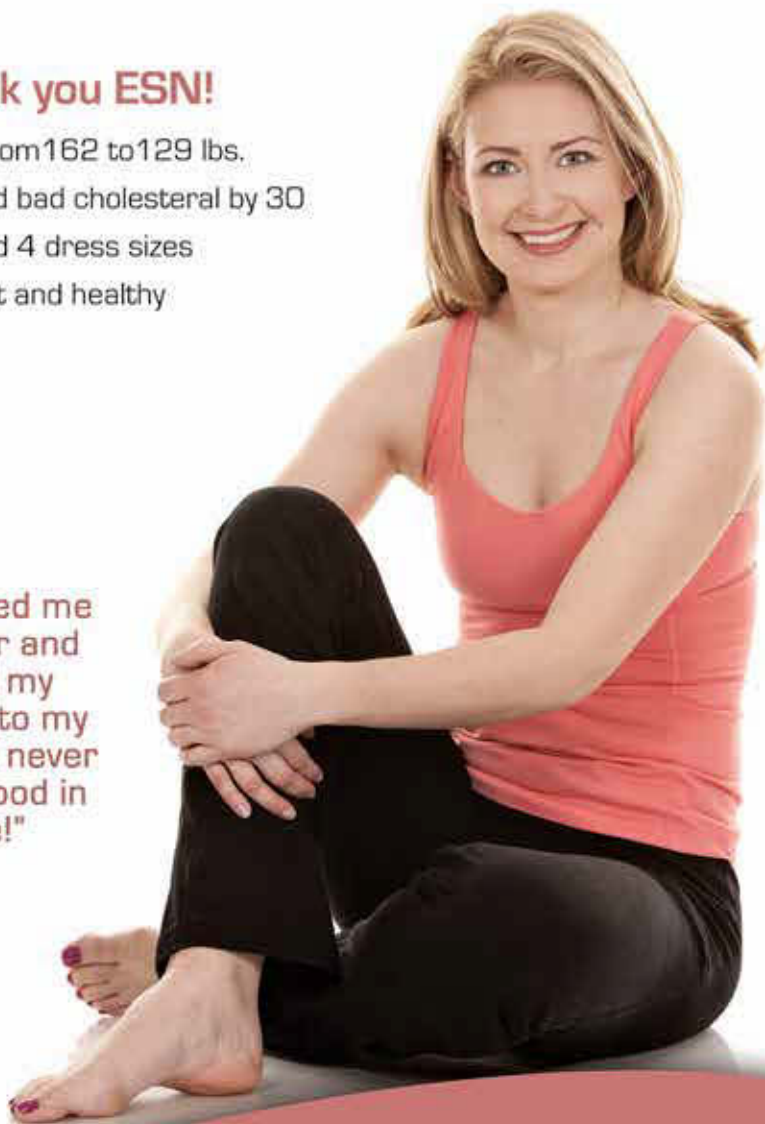
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