

Principal of the Year

Dr. Timothy M. Wagner Named Pennsylvania's 2023 Principal of the Year



Dr. Timothy M. Wagner, Principal of Upper St. Clair High School in the Upper St. Clair School District, has been named **Pennsylvania's 2023 Principal of the Year by the Pennsylvania Principals Association**. He will be honored by the PA Principals Association at an Awards Dinner on August 6, 2023, during Summit23 in King of Prussia. As a state winner in the National Association of Secondary School Principals' (NASSP) Principal of the Year Program, Dr. Wagner is a candidate for the National Secondary Principal of the Year.

According to Dr. Eric Eshbach, Executive Director, PA Principals Association, "I am delighted with the selection of Dr. Timothy Wagner, an exceptional leader and principal, as Pennsylvania's 2023 Principal of the Year. He was chosen for this honor by a committee of his peers for his leadership and outstanding contributions to his school, his students and his community. This is clearly demonstrated with the time he has spent evaluating and shaping Upper St. Clair High School's culture. In addition, he recognizes the importance of the emotional and physical well-being of his students and

staff members and has worked tirelessly to ensure that all stakeholders feel valued, supported and safe. We are proud to have him represent the PA Principals Association and secondary principals across the commonwealth."

An educator for 16 years, Dr. Wagner has spent his entire professional career in the Upper St. Clair School District. He joined the Upper St. Clair High School administration in 2015 as the associate principal for program planning and innovation and served as the principal at Upper St. Clair High School since 2019. In 2007, he began his teaching career at Streams Elementary School. In addition, he taught middle-level English and social studies, and served as a gifted education coordinator for students in grades 7-12 and as the middle school English language arts curriculum leader.

In 2007, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development launched its *whole child* initiative. This initiative centered schools not only on academic achievement, but also on the work of ensuring students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged. Dr. Wagner shared, "Now, more than ever, school personnel are challenged to commit to the critical standard of educating the *whole child*, both for the benefit of the children themselves as well as for the communities where they live and learn. Our school community believes that students learn best when they feel physically healthy and safe and emotionally connected supported. Placing these goals at the forefront of what our staff learns, our students experience and our community talks about has been a priority in my career."

During his tenure, Dr. Wagner has forged successful partnerships between Upper St. Clair High School's Wellness Committee and various agencies and stakeholders, including the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's Services for Teens at Risk (STAR) Center and the Allegheny County Department of Health and Human Services. In collaboration with Allegheny County's Department of Health and Human Services, a chapter of *Stand Together*, a school-based, peer-to-peer, behavioral health, anti-stigma club, was established at Upper St. Clair High School. In addition, Upper St. Clair High School was designated a *No Place for Hate School* based on ongoing anti-bias programming.

In 2017, Dr. Wagner was honored with the *Outstanding Young Alumnus Award* from Washington & Jefferson College and the University of Pittsburgh School of Education's *Early Career Award*. In 2014, he received the *Outstanding Young Educator Award* from the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (PASCD). In 2016, PASCD named him an *Emerging Leader*. This program recognizes and prepares young, promising educators to influence education programs, policy and practice at the state level.

Dr. Wagner received his undergraduate degree from Washington & Jefferson College. He earned his graduate and doctoral degrees from the University of Pittsburgh.

"To receive this honor makes me think about all of the amazing things that our staff and students do every day. It is a privilege to support the pursuits of members of our school community. As principal of Upper St. Clair High School, I realize that I am part of something much larger than myself. Since I was a young child, Upper St. Clair has represented so much to me – care, community and excellence. It is these traditions that allow us to succeed together," said Dr. Wagner.

In addition to his work as an educator, Dr. Wagner enjoys exploring the world, reading classic and modern fiction and translating his experience on the tennis court to the pickleball court. He is grateful for his supportive family and friends, who have encouraged him in his work in education.

"Being named Pennsylvania's Principal of the Year is an incredible and well-deserved honor for Dr. Wagner. He has taught at every level within our school district and has a depth of knowledge that is difficult to match. As principal, he has demonstrated tremendous leadership and continues to make a positive impact within and beyond Upper St. Clair High School."

- Dr. John Rozzo
Superintendent of Schools
Upper St. Clair School District