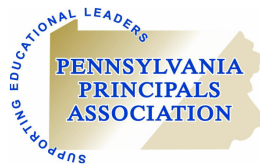


Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 2:06 PM

Subject: "The Main Idea" – What do the best principals do that makes them so successful?



THE MAIN IDEA

current education book summaries

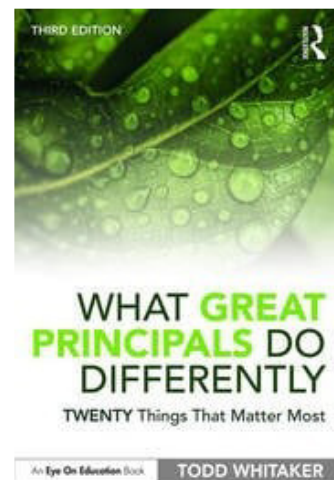
Member Benefit

Dear PA Principals Association Member,

I hope you found some time for yourself over the summer.

Time has a way of creeping up on you. It's hard to believe, but my husband and I just celebrated our 25th anniversary. To mark the occasion, we're spending the year doing 25 new things together we've never done before — I'm enjoying this.

Speaking of 25 years, I summarized a classic book for you this month. Todd Whitaker recently updated his popular book from almost 25 years ago, ***What Great Principals Do Differently***.



Imagine if you were fortunate enough to be assigned the ideal principal mentor. This is a book that feels like a conversation with that mentor as he shares bite-sized pieces of advice from his time as a principal (and his research). The ideas are spot-on and you can implement them tomorrow. Oh, and he shares anecdotes to help you remember these tips, too.

This book puts all those pieces of advice in one place — it compiles the 20 things that Whitaker has found separates the good from the great principals.

He suggests you read it at the beginning of each year.

Idea: Why not carve out 15 minutes of your next leadership team meeting for everyone to silently read the 8-page summary and then discuss.

Here are my resources this month:

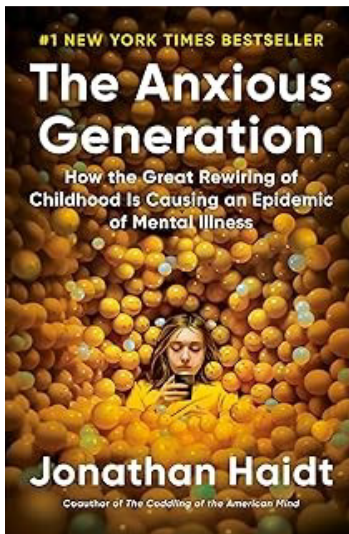
- Full 8-page [**book summary of What Great Principals Do Differently: Twenty Things That Matter Most.**](#)
- My 1-pager based on the book, [**10 Ways Principals can go from Good to Great.**](#)
- Look for the [**podcast with Todd Whitaker**](#) soon.

I wish you well in getting back to school, and I'll return in September.

[**Jenn**](#)

PS — You may already know Todd Whitaker because he's a leading expert on teacher leadership and principal effectiveness and has written over 60 books! See my website for summaries of a few of his other books (such as [**Working with Difficult and Resistant Staff.**](#)

PPS — To learn more or get copies of What Great Principals Do Differently, click here: [**Routledge.**](#)



Join us Tuesday, September 24, 2024 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT for

Schools Can Help the Anxious Generation: A Call for K-12 School Leaders

Many of us are seeing unprecedented numbers of students struggling with mental health challenges. There ARE things we can do in schools to help. **Join me** for a **FREE live webinar** with author

Jonathan Haidt of the New York Times bestselling book, *The Anxious Generation*.

In this edWebinar, social psychologist Dr. Jonathan Haidt will walk educators through the research on our urgent youth mental health crisis, present four norms for collective action, and outline what schools can do now to improve mental health for kids and teens.

Come with any questions you might have for Dr. Jonathan Haidt about the role of schools in dealing with social media, phones, and adolescent mental health issues. There will be time for questions at the end of the presentation.

Feel free to attend this edWebinar yourself or share the registration link with K-12 teachers, librarians, school leaders, district leaders, education technology leaders, and school counselors and psychologists.

[Register for free here.](#)

Classroom routines can build executive functions.

This is the time of year many of you are kicking off the school year. I remember when I started to teach middle school math in the 1990s and I was full of hope thinking of all of the math skills my students would devour.

Then I'd start to notice some of the challenges my students faced that had nothing to do with math.

One student didn't know the first thing about time management. Another couldn't remember anything I had taught the day before. And a third student had a black hole of a book bag — she could never find anything in there.

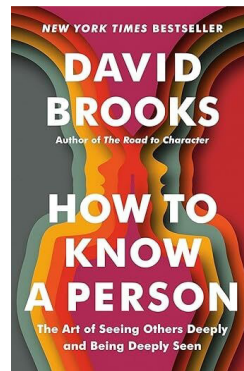
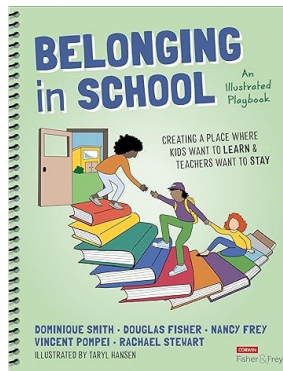
That's when I realized I had to do more than teach math. I had to teach my students the types of skills to help them become successful in school, and also in life. That is, I had to teach executive function skills (so that's what they were called!).

In his book, *Executive Functions for Every Classroom*, Mitch Weathers shares the types of routines that help teachers teach executive function skills. Then he goes further to suggest teaching these skills across an entire grade or an entire school. Imagine the power of developing student executive functions across the school.

Some resources for you:

- My brief [BookBit of his book, *Executive Functions for Every Classroom*](#).
- Mike Doughty and my [podcast discussion with author Mitch Weathers](#).
- Learn more about Mitch's organization, [Organized Binder](#).





Did you miss last month's book summaries on the topic of BELONGING?

I love these books for building student and staff belonging.

A reminder that you can access all 180 of my previous book summaries, and even SEARCH by topic or author, on the PAST BOOK TITLES page of my website.

PASSWORD: readtolead (you must use lowercase letters).

[Login Now](#)

You may contact me at jenn@themainidea.net

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