Principal for a Day

The Principal for a Day (PFAD) program, an initiative of the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce’s Business and Education Committee, began in 2014.

The Business and Education Committee comprises representatives from the chamber, the Randolph County School System, Asheboro City Schools, Randolph Community College, Communities in Schools, and area businesses.

The PFAD program is designed to increase awareness and understanding in the business community of the strengths and challenges of our schools, as well as form ongoing partnerships and collaboration between schools and local businesses.

Schools in both the Randolph County School System and Asheboro City Schools have hosted PFAD guests at varying times over the past five years. Between the two school systems, approximately 15-20 schools host a PFAD guest each year.

At the time the PFAD program was introduced, the chamber already had a program in place - the Summer Teacher Internship program - in which teachers spend time working at local businesses to learn more about jobs and the skills they require.

In a sense, the PFAD program flips the roles as spelled out in the Teacher internship Program. With PFAD, members of the business community visit schools and spend a day shadowing the principal, to get a sense of what a school day is really like.

PFAD visits are designed to be informal. Typically, guests arrive at schools around 7:30 a.m. and stay through lunch, but as a courtesy to both the principal and his/her guest, both of whom have busy schedules, flexibility is allowed to coordinate the day as they see fit. The hope is that guests will experience as much of a typical school day as possible.

The ultimate objective of PFAD is to build relationships, and in the process, PFAD guests typically regard their school visit as an eye-opening experience - in a positive way. Principals enjoy showing off their schools, and PFAD guests always seem to come away from their school visit with newfound respect and admiration for the work being done – by administrators, teachers, school staff, and students.

The Business and Education Committee selects American Education Week as the time period each year to conduct “Principal for a Day” visits, but schools and businesses have the latitude to coordinate visits anytime during the school year.