



Name: Steven Bellaire

Current role: Principal of Safe Schools

Tenure with WECDSD:

What do you do to help students?

As the Principal of Safe Schools, Mr. Bellaire believes in four main components that help to ensure students are safe within their schools: promoting a positive school climate, monitoring mental health and well-being, promoting equity and inclusivity, and making sure emergency response drills are occurring regularly. An essential part of his duties also includes ensuring that schools are taking an active role in preventing bullying. There must be an entire school approach including students, staff, and parents to minimize acts of bullying and its harmful effects. Professional development opportunities are used to ensure that schools are aware of the latest prevention and intervention strategies. Dealing with suspensions, expulsions, and absences are also a very important aspect of Mr. Bellaire's job. If necessary, meetings with students and their parents are organized to discuss the issue and get to the root of the problem.

What keeps you motivated?

Mr. Bellaire is motivated when he works with administrators and staff to help create a positive school climate for the students. Students who experience a positive school climate feel supported and accepted by staff and peers and tend to develop a strong sense of belonging to their school community. Those feelings of belonging help to enhance the students' self-esteem and can contribute to improvements in their academics and overall mental health.

What do you love most about your job?

Mr. Bellaire loves the opportunity to connect students to services that allow them to access the supports they need to address the areas that are negatively impacting their lives. These could include mental health services, counselling, crisis support, etc... When students receive the supports they need and begin to make changes in their lives, it positively impacts on the entire school community.