The Many Hats of the Principal

Summary of Presentation:

They are supervisors, building managers, instructional leaders, mediators, and role models for teachers and students. They wear many hats of responsibility; they are principals. Their responsibilities range in focus and scope as they serve their schools and carry out their schools’ mission within the district and local community. Managing their roles, time, and the fluctuating stressors is vital to administrators’ personal and professional success.

Robert Berman discusses personal and professional characteristics of successful principals, as well as management strategies to help balance all of the hats administrators wear. Principals and assistant principals with less than five years of experience, as well as prospective administrators and even seasoned principals, will gain valuable insights into the profession.

Speaker Biography:

Robert Berman, Associate Professor of Education at Concordia College, New York, spent 32 years in public education, 21 of them as a principal. During his career, Dr. Berman received the PTA Lifetime Achievement Award and the New York State Distinguished Service Award.

Time of Podcast: 1:01:43

Intended Audience: Principals, Assistant Principals, Superintendents, Department Chairs, Prospective Administrators

Objectives:

- Introduce professional characteristics of successful principals
- Share management strategies to help balance all of the hats administrators wear

Pre-Questions/activities on the topic:

1. Name some personal characteristics of successful principals.
2. Name some professional characteristics of successful principals.
3. Name some management strategies of successful principals.

Questions to Answer During or Immediately After the Webcast:

1. What are the duties of the principal as Instructional Leader?
2. What are the duties of the principal as Building Manager?
3. What are the duties of the principal as Chief Scheduler and Roster Maker?
4. What are the duties of the principal as Regulatory Guru?
5. What are the duties of the principal as “Building” Personality?
**Follow-up:**

- Discuss your strengths and areas that need improvement in regards to your role as a principal wearing each of the 5 hats: Instructional Leader, Building Manager, Chief Scheduler and Roster Maker, Regulatory Guru, and “Building Personality.”

**Tie to Other KDP Resources:**

KDP Web page

**From Teacher to Administrator**

There is frequent media attention about the “poor, overworked principal” . . . so, ... Successful principals need many skills: organization, flexibility, interpersonal ...


**Book**

*Star Principals: Serving Children in Poverty*

*A great resource for administrators!*  
How “star” principals build great schools by focusing on the needs of children in poverty; the book for urban educators and star teachers who plan to become administrators.  
Author: Martin Haberman, 1999. 120 pages.  


**Articles:**

Lumpkin, Angela,. *Three Keys to Success for Principals (and Their Teachers)*, The Record, Fall 2008

**Podcasts and Webcasts:**

Kersten, Thomas A. *8 Strategies for Success in Your First Year as a Principal.*

Berman, Robert. Title may be *Being a 21st Century Principal* – webinar to be presented April 1, 2014.

**This podcast includes audio, PowerPoint and handout downloads. The handout is a handy reference for before or after the presentation.**