



NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

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To Whom It May Concern:

I served as Superintendent of the Mount Vernon City School District for four years (August 1998 – July 2002). During this period George Albano served as principal of Lincoln Elementary School. My tenure marked the beginning of New York State's new assessments in reading and math for 4th graders.

George's school, Lincoln, is the largest elementary school in the city. It is equally divided racially and economically with well over 800 students. George never complained about the testing. He was eager to prove that all children could and would do well. To say that he, and the teachers and students rose to the task would be an understatement. After 34 years in this profession I can state unequivocally that George Albano is one of the best principals in this nation and that Lincoln Elementary School under his leadership is one of the best elementary schools in the nation.

George Albano brings an intrinsic love of people to the task of the elementary principalship. He loves children and the attitude is infectious throughout the school. It is exemplified throughout the staff, secretaries, custodians, security and of course the teaching staff. But equally important it is shown in the children's reaction with one another. George and Lincoln Elementary excel at more than high-test scores. They excel at character building.

Another of George's secrets is his passion for picking teachers. George is as hard nosed and passionate about who gets to teach at Lincoln as the most selective chef in a 3-star Michelin restaurant.

There are many other qualities that make up a perfect principal. George has them all. He takes pride in his building. It is old but immaculate. He takes pride in his staff. There are no bad teachers at Lincoln. He gives of himself. George is there early and late. He always has time to help students, teachers or parents. George is the first to volunteer to help new principals with mentoring.

I could write tomes on George Albano as a person and principal. Suffice to say he is a great principal deserving of the accolades Lincoln elementary is now being accorded.

Sincerely,

Ronald O. Ross
Dr. Israel Tribble, Jr. Distinguished Fellow
for Urban Education Reform