

Frank Garcia

John Q. Thomas Elementary School

2016 Rodel Exemplary Principal

Collaborating with the community

“ Collaboration with our school community is critical to our work. There are needs that we identify within our school that our community helps bring to fruition. We have partnerships that focus on high-level math and robotics. We have after school programs that were developed and implemented through our school partners to help our students create and build on their interests. Through our collaborative efforts, J.Q. Thomas Elementary School has become a source of pride for the community it serves.

A tip for parents

“ Believe in your student and help them develop their own dreams. Children are naturally curious and want to explore the world around them. We live in an age when nearly anything is possible. Encourage and support your children to set goals and live their dreams. Their education is the road map to their success. Happy, successful, educated children grow into happy, successful, educated adults which is a common goal of every parent and educator.

Bragging rights

“ My greatest source of pride in J. Q. Thomas Elementary School is our school culture which is geared toward the success of our students. Every member of our staff contributes to the individual goals we have set for ourselves as educators and the overall goals we use to help our students achieve. Our overall success is supported by our commitment to our work and our drive to accomplish our mission of providing a quality education to every student entrusted to us.



Frank Garcia

John Q. Thomas Elementary School
Flagstaff Unified District

510 students in grades K-5

Experience: 28 Years in education including 12 years as a classroom teacher and 16 years as an elementary principal; currently a member of the Arizona Department of Education Certification Advisory Committee, the Northern Arizona Public Employee Benefit Trust Advisory Committee and the Museum of Northern Arizona Board of Directors, and Co-Chair of the FUSD FACTS After School Program Advisory Committee

Degrees: B.S. in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University; M.Ed. in School Counseling from Northern Arizona University; Principal Certification and Superintendent Certification

Rodel, in partnership with Social Venture Partners Arizona, developed the Rodel Exemplary Principal Initiative to recognize outstanding school principals and populate a pipeline of highly skilled school leaders for Arizona's most challenging schools.

The Rodel Exemplary Principals are selected for their demonstrated ability to lead high-need schools to success by inspiring their staffs to develop a campus that is high achieving, safe, orderly and welcoming.

Each cohort of Exemplary Principals provides professional development, field experience and mentorship to a class of Rodel Aspiring Principals. After learning from the best, Rodel Aspiring Principals are better prepared to lead their own high-need schools.