

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MARTINSVILLE



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For Immediate Release:
April 16, 2026

After a distinguished 37-year career dedicated to education, leadership, and student success, Jeff Bell, principal of Martinsville High School, has announced his retirement at the end of the 2025-2026 academic year.

While serving in the MSD of Martinsville, Mr. Bell has been an inspiring presence in the school community. Over the years, he has championed academic excellence, expanded curricular offerings, and fostered a culture where every student feels seen, supported, and encouraged to thrive.

Under his leadership, Martinsville High School has seen significant achievements, including higher test scores, increased student involvement, and a higher graduation rate. MHS Athletic Director, Kip Staggs stated, "For 37 years, Jeff Bell has served the communities of Clay City and Martinsville with integrity, character, and passion. His parents, Ron and Jan who are former Martinsville educators, would be very proud of his servant leadership and his purpose driven career."

Colleagues describe him as a dedicated educator who leads with compassion and a deep commitment to students and staff alike. English teacher Carri Randall stated, "Jeff Bell has been the heartbeat of Martinsville High School, and he has revitalized the morale and spirit of our staff and students. Ultimately, he is what it means to truly be an Artesian!"

"Jeff Bell has truly been the heart and soul of Martinsville High School," said Eric Bowlen, Superintendent of the MSD of Martinsville. "He is, without a doubt, the spirit-animal of the high school and often referred to as 'Bell Cat.' He embodies Artesian pride, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. His impact will be felt for generations to come."

Students, families, and faculty have expressed gratitude for Jeff Bell's leadership and mentorship. Known for greeting students by name in the hallways and attending countless school events, Mr. Bell built lasting relationships that extend far beyond the classroom.

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