



Stephanie Meshell's goal is to be active and present with her students every day

*A Cy-Fair Magazine feature highlighting the hard work of Cy-Fair ISD principals*

# Principal Stephanie Meshell

Instilling the value of perseverance in Cy Ridge students for a successful future

*Written by Carly Gutierrez | Select photography by Marie Paugh*



Photo by Monica De La Pena

Meshell during a school pep rally



Meshell believes in building the Ram legacy through activities, community service, and demonstrations of kindness

Teaching and coaching from East Texas to Louisiana, Stephanie Meshell knows the love and experience it takes to be an educator. Most importantly, she knows the value of being a Cypress Ridge Ram.

Before beginning her position of Cy Ridge's principal in 2014, Meshell served as associate principal under founding principal Claudio Garcia. Her primary goal is to make a difference in students' lives and show them the potential they have to make a difference in the world.

"I am touched and moved by the students' display of Ram PRIDE everywhere they go," says Meshell. "The Cy Ridge administration is also extremely diverse, but they all come together for common goals and values."

### Ram Legacy

Ram PRIDE is the school-wide motto, which stands for punctuality, respect, integrity, determination, and enthusiasm. Students are upheld to model PRIDE not just in their school life, but also in their lives outside of Cy Ridge. Examples include the girls basketball team serving food during Thanksgiving at a church, to the Random Acts of Kindness group giving back to people by adopting families during the holidays, and even the football team building homes for veterans. Cy Ridge students demonstrate pride regardless of the circumstances. "It's an ongoing legacy that keeps on giving, one that I am thankful to be a part of," says Meshell.

Cy Ridge is all about doing the right thing at all times. Even when no one is looking, students are giving back to the community with their behavior through the positive culture of helping each other. "I think it's truly the family atmosphere," says Meshell. "Whenever you come through the door we're going to try and make sure that everyone is successful."



## Ram Fun Facts

**SCHOOL COLORS** Forest green, navy blue, and white

**MASCOT** Rams

**VICE PRINCIPAL** Richard Dixon

**LOCATION** 7900 N. Eldridge Pkwy., Houston

**MOTTO** Ram PRIDE

**BATTLE CRY** "Rams in the house - bad news!"

**YEAR OPENED** 2002

**CURRENT ENROLLMENT** 3,022 students

**TWITTER HANDLE** @CypressRidgeHS

**HASHTAGS** #ramsready #rampride



Meshell is impressed by the level of pride shown by the Cy Ridge Rams

### Reaching Their Potential

"The part I love about Cy Ridge is the resiliency of our students," says Meshell. "They don't give up and whenever things get tough they just say, 'Okay we're going to figure this out, and we're not giving up.'"

A believer in second chances, Meshell states that even though some students may look at her like she's the perfect person, she has made mistakes of her own. But thanks to the people in her life that saw the potential in her, she has achieved so much, and that is what she wants to instill in teachers and students to help each other reach their potential. "I learn each and every day from the students and what they go through," says Meshell. "They persevere and sometimes I stand in wonder. I have so much respect for them."

### Adding Value

Meshell wants to encourage an academic learning based off of students' personal experiences which will help them in the real world. "We have an amazing culture of students who are going to be phenomenal leaders that are going to make a difference in the world no matter what profession they choose."

At Cy Ridge, being present and interacting with students is an everyday goal. "It's about how we can add value," says Meshell. "Every day when I get up and come to school, that's what I think of. How can we add value? That means that you take the time to listen and assimilate it and use it and apply it so that whenever you do go out in the real world you're going to have a lot of success." CFM

*CARLY GUTIERREZ has been a reporter on the RamPage since 2014. She is currently a junior and is aspiring to be a lawyer.*