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LAKELAND SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED AS TENNESSEE PURPLE STAR AWARD WINNERS

Designation Recognizes Commitment to Military Families

Lakeland, TN, May 25, 2021– The Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) Tennessee has announced that both of Lakeland School System’s schools, Lakeland Elementary School and Lakeland Preparatory School, have been awarded the Tennessee Purple Star School Award (PSSA). The two schools were among eighteen schools in the state to receive the award this year.

The Tennessee Purple Star School Award was designed to recognize military-friendly schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation’s military. Schools earn the designation by meeting specific criteria which demonstrate attention to the specific challenges that military connected children and families may face when transferring schools, adapting to new environments, or having a parent deployed to a combat zone. The designation helps military-connected families identify schools that have appropriate supports in place.

The criteria for the Purple Star Award is based on the components of the Military Interstate Children’s Compact which addresses the key educational transition issues encountered by military families including enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation. The compact was adopted by all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Tennessee adopted the compact in 2011.

Lakeland School System superintendent Dr. Ted Horrell stated, “We are beyond grateful for the families that serve our nation through their military service, and we’re fortunate to have so many military families in Lakeland School System. Our principals, teachers, and staff are committed to meeting the unique needs of military families and especially the children of those families.”

More information on the Military Interstate Children’s Compact can be found at:

<https://www.tn.gov/sbe/committees-and-initiatives/military-interstate-children-s-compact-tennessee-state-council--mic3-.html>

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Dr. Ted Horrell at 901.867.5412 or email at thorrell@lakelandk12.org.