



HCSD Selects New Principal for Endeavor Academy

MEDIA RELEASE

Brooksville, Fla. - The Hernando School District has selected Brandon DeRespiris to lead Endeavor Academy starting July 1st.

DeRespiris has served as the Director of Safe Schools since 2023 where he has elevated HCSDs safety and security initiatives helping promote a safer learning environment for students. Prior to his current role DeRespiris held teaching and administrative positions at Nature Coast Technical High School and Central High School.

"I am extremely humbled and honored to have been selected as the new principal of Endeavor and Discovery Academy. I look forward to helping build upon the foundation that the faculty and staff have created around student success," said DeRespiris.

"Mr. DeRespiris has a proven track record of outstanding leadership, and I am confident he will be an effective leader who inspires our students, staff and faculty at Endeavor," said Ray Pinder, Superintendent of Hernando County Schools.

DeRespiris said that he has thoroughly enjoyed working with his amazing team in the Office of Safe Schools to prioritize safety for all students and staff across the district but is excited to get back to the school setting where he can have a more direct impact on the growth and success of students.

Steve Crognale, Executive Director of Support Operations and current principal, took on the additional role earlier this year while HCSD looked for a long-term successor. Crognale is a veteran of HCSD and has served in many capacities including leading Endeavor before and he will continue in his role as Executive Director of Support Operations.

Angel Pagan has been selected as the new director of Safe Schools and will lead the department upon DeRespiris' departure. Pagan has been the assistant director since 2023. He became a school guardian in 2021 following an over 33-year career in law enforcement.



Brandon DeRespiris



Angel Pagan