



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lake Wales Charter Schools Superintendent's Office

Date: April 30, 2026

Lake Wales Charter Schools Announces Dr. Julio Acevedo as the New Principal of Hillcrest Elementary School

LAKE WALES, FL – Lake Wales Charter Schools is proud to announce that Dr. Julio Acevedo has been selected and approved as the next principal of Hillcrest Elementary School, effective July 1, 2026. The decision was finalized during the Board meeting held on April 20, 2026.

Dr. Acevedo is a seasoned professional entering his 21st year in education, with two decades of dedicated service specifically within the Lake Wales Charter Schools system. His extensive leadership background includes roles such as:

- ESOL Director
- Interim Assistant Principal at Hillcrest Elementary
- Human Resources Director
- Interim Principal at Bok Academy South
- Director of Transportation
- Grant Coordinator
- Elementary Teacher

Dr. Acevedo holds a comprehensive academic portfolio, including a Bachelor's Degree in Drama Education, an MBA in Human Resources, a Specialist degree in Educational Leadership, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Beyond his roles in Lake Wales Charter School, he serves as an adjunct professor at Ana G. Mendez University and Webber International University, where he helps shape the next generation of educational leaders.

A recognized expert in his field, Dr. Acevedo holds state-level leadership roles in Bilingual Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). He was also recently appointed to the state-level ESOL Endorsement Evaluators Committee.

With a deep-rooted passion for music and theater, Dr. Acevedo brings a unique creative perspective to his new role. He aims to revitalize Hillcrest Elementary as a premier School of the Arts, by focusing on strengthening community partnerships and increasing student engagement through creative expression.



“I believe every student has the capacity to learn, apply critical thinking, make sound decisions, and grasp new concepts. As educators, it is our responsibility to nurture curiosity and inspire students to envision and pursue their aspirations. At Hillcrest, we place students at the center of all we do, and hold a strong belief in their potential. We are committed to supporting their growth each day, empowering them to excel and become positive role models.” Dr. Julio Acevedo

Dr. Acevedo’s appointment marks an exciting new chapter for Hillcrest Elementary. His unique blend of artistic passion and dedication to student-centered learning aligns perfectly with the Lake Wales Charter Schools’ mission to provide a high-quality, innovative education. Lake Wales Charter Schools welcomes Dr. Acevedo in his new role as the Principal of Hillcrest Elementary.

About Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc.

The mission of Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is to bring the best of public education to our community by providing innovation and choice within a continuous preschool through postsecondary curriculum so that each child recognizes the benefits of lifelong learning, constructive citizenship, and personal happiness. Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is an equal opportunity institution for education and employment. Please visit our website at <https://www.lwcharterschools.com/>.

###