WHEREAS, leadership is second only to classroom instruction among all school-related factors that contribute to what students learn at school; and

WHEREAS, school leaders set the academic tone for their schools and work collaboratively with teachers to facilitate learning, maintain a rigorous curriculum, set performance standards and secure the mission of educating children in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, principals are expected to be educational leaders, assessment experts, public relations experts, data and budget analysts, disciplinarians, guardians of student safety and policy mandates, as well as advocates of activity programs; and

WHEREAS, the vision, dedication, and determination of a principal provides the mobilizing force behind any school improvement initiative; and

WHEREAS, the role of the school principal carries greater responsibility than ever before for ensuring maximum educational and career opportunities for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals and the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals have fostered and encouraged professional leadership.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim October 2020 to be

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS MONTH

in Missouri, and urge all citizens to recognize school principals and the importance of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to high-quality education.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 20th day of October, 2020.