

### **Vanessa Stuart, Principal**

My name is Vanessa Stuart. I have been the principal of Degan the past two years. Previously, I have served as a classroom teacher in 3rd-5th grades, an Educational Diagnostician for EC-12, a Curriculum Coordinator for PK-12 in all subject areas, before becoming an assistant principal and then principal. I believe that it is essential for educators to work collaboratively to overcome obstacles and take an active voice in sharing the power of public education, as it is our greatest power in ensuring a strong, stable society. I am especially passionate about schools with high numbers of students coming from impoverished backgrounds and have recently been exploring the potential to help students overcome poverty through intentional instruction in grit and growth mindset. Thank you for the opportunity to share about my amazing school. I am blessed to have amazing students, staff and families to serve each day. Working for a district that has a vision of developing our students into prepared 21st Century learners through authentic engagement and considering their future is one of my greatest honors.

Learn more about my journey on my website:  
[www.gritgraceandgrowthmindset.com](http://www.gritgraceandgrowthmindset.com) or  
follow me on Twitter @vbstuart

## **Who We Are**

### **About Degan Elementary**

Degan Elementary is a Title I elementary school serving 650 students in Lewisville ISD. We strive to be a learning organization through our implementation of Professional Learning Communities, Yearlong Professional Learning Plans, a focus on learning standards, higher level thinking and continuous problem solving.

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 469.713.5867  
Email: [stuartv@lisd.net](mailto:stuartv@lisd.net)  
Web: [www.degan.lisd.net](http://www.degan.lisd.net)  
Twitter: @deganelementary  
Search #WeAreDegan



*The wings of transformation  
are born of  
patience and struggle.*  
~ Janet S. Dickens

### **DEGAN ELEMENTARY**

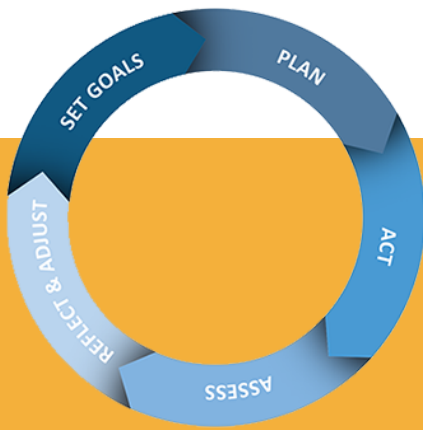
1680 College Parkway  
Lewisville, TX 75077



# **The Butterfly Effect**

**Degan Elementary  
Lewisville ISD  
Lewisville, TX**

**One School's Journey of  
Transformation**



## The Essential Ps:

Purpose

People

Prepare

Plan

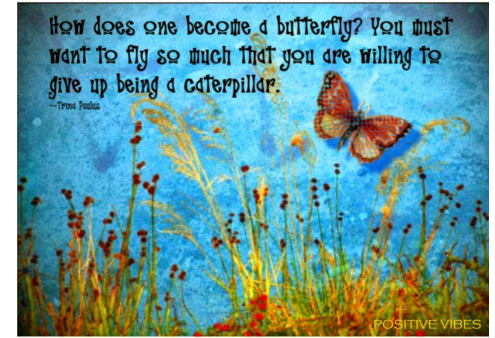
Practice

Ponder

Perfect

Come experience the transformation. Schedule a visit with your team to see:

- Weekly Schoolwide Celebrations
- Application of Ruby Payne's Action Strategies for Students from Poverty and Research Based Strategies
- Professional Learning Communities Driven by Exploration of Standards and Student Data
- School Wide Implementation of Depth and Complexity Icons
- School Wide Implementation of a Writing Initiative based on Habits of Mind and Effective Writing Routines
- Campus Wide Restorative Discipline Plan that includes Teaching of Essential Behaviors.
- Glenna Tabor's Framework for Integrating Stations for Small Group Instruction
- Intentional use of Technology (1:x iPads in 4th and 5th grades)
- Intentional Instruction for Students in the Concepts of Grit and Growth Mindset
- Creating a College Ready Culture



## Degan Is a No Excuses University School

NEU is a group of like-minded educators who believe in developing exceptional systems for high poverty schools in the following areas:

- Culture of Universal Achievement
- Collaboration
- Standards Alignment
- Assessment
- Data Management
- Interventions

*"We believe that every child will be proficient or advanced in Reading, Writing, and Math so that they are prepared to go to college if they choose!"*