

# The New School Management: By Wandering Around

In the past, school principals were often seen as distant figures, sequestered away in their offices, only emerging to deal with major issues or to make announcements over the intercom. But in recent years, there has been a growing trend towards a more visible and engaged style of school management, known as "wandering around."

Wandering around management is a style of leadership that emphasizes the importance of getting out of the office and interacting with students, staff, and parents on a regular basis. This can be done through informal conversations, impromptu observations, or planned walk-throughs. The goal is to create a more open and collaborative school climate, where everyone feels valued and connected.



## The New School Management by Wandering Around

by William A. Streshly

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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## Benefits of Wandering Around Management

There are many benefits to wandering around management, including:

- **Increased visibility and accessibility:** When principals are out and about, they are more visible to students, staff, and parents. This can help to build relationships and trust, and it can also make it easier for people to approach the principal with concerns or questions.
- **Improved communication:** Wandering around management provides opportunities for informal communication between the principal and other members of the school community. This can help to break down barriers and improve understanding between different groups.
- **Enhanced collaboration:** By getting out of the office and interacting with others, principals can foster a more collaborative school climate. This can lead to better decision-making and a more positive work environment.
- **Increased awareness of school culture:** Wandering around management allows principals to observe the school culture firsthand. This can help them to identify areas for improvement and to make changes that will benefit the entire school community.
- **Improved student behavior:** When students see their principal out and about, they are more likely to behave well. This is because they know that the principal is watching and that they will be held accountable for their actions.

## **Challenges of Wandering Around Management**

While wandering around management has many benefits, there are also some challenges associated with this style of leadership. These challenges include:

- **Time constraints:** Principals have busy schedules, and it can be difficult to find time to get out of the office and wander around. This is especially true in large schools with multiple buildings.
- **Unplanned interruptions:** When principals are out and about, they are often interrupted by people who need their assistance. This can make it difficult to focus on observing and interacting with others.
- **Negative perceptions:** Some people may view wandering around management as a sign that the principal is not working hard enough. This is because they may not understand the benefits of this style of leadership.

### **Tips for Successful Wandering Around Management**

If you are considering adopting a wandering around management style, there are a few tips that can help you to be successful:

- **Start small:** Don't try to do too much too soon. Start by wandering around for a few minutes each day, and gradually increase the amount of time you spend out of the office.
- **Be consistent:** Make it a habit to get out of the office and wander around on a regular basis. This will help to build relationships and trust with others.
- **Be open and approachable:** When you are out and about, make yourself open and approachable to others. Let people know that you are there to listen to their concerns and to help them in any way that you can.

- **Be observant:** Pay attention to what is going on around you when you are wandering around. Observe the interactions between students, staff, and parents. Look for opportunities to improve the school climate and to make the school a better place for everyone.
- **Be prepared to respond:** When you are out and about, you may be interrupted by people who need your assistance. Be prepared to respond to their needs in a timely and professional manner.

Wandering around management is a new style of school leadership that has the potential to improve the school climate and to make schools more effective. However, it is important to be aware of the challenges associated with this style of leadership and to take steps to overcome them. By following the tips outlined in this article, you can successfully implement wandering around management in your school and create a more positive and productive learning environment for all.





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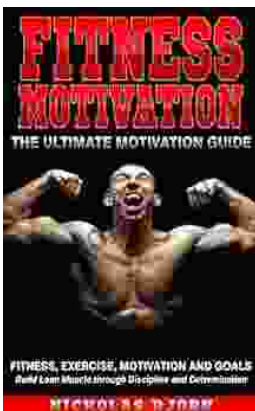
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