

MONDAY MESSAGE

FROM DR. MCFARLAND



Think, Believe and Act

December 11, 2017

On a recent flight, I had the privilege of sitting by Mrs. Cora Lee Booker. She was an elderly lady who reminded me of my Aunt Dora who was full of life and vigor. Her smile and personality lit up the plane. When I sat beside her, she immediately struck up a conversation with me. I told her I was an educator and a superintendent, and she reminded me of the **awesome responsibility we have**.

I asked Mrs. Booker about the educator she remembered the most, and she lit up as she described her elementary teacher, Ms. Hale. Mrs. Booker went on for 15 minutes about this teacher. She spoke with pride, admiration and appreciation as she shared her most precious memories with me. I listened intently and could not help but feel proud to be an educator.

Mrs. Booker talked about how Ms. Hale taught all of her students to believe in themselves and that they could not afford to be just as good as someone else ... they must be better. Ms. Hale would start every class with a quote and a discussion that challenged students' thinking. She taught them to always maintain a positive perspective regardless of the circumstances. Mrs. Booker said that has carried her through many trials in the last 40 years, and it is sustaining her today. Mrs. Booker's favorite quote shared by Ms. Hale was, "As a man thinketh, so is he."

This was an amazing conversation, and I felt blessed to hear Mrs. Booker's story. But the more I heard about Mrs. Booker, the more proud I became of Ms. Hale.

My conversation reminded me of the significance of our job as educators and the opportunity we have to impact the students we serve today. The reality is that our students may not remember all of the academic subjects we teach them. However, they will remember the life lessons we share and whether or not we believed in them. According to Mrs. Booker, Ms. Hale believed that every student in her class was special and made them feel that way daily. The **power of belief** was confirmed through this short conversation.

I am a living testament to the power of belief. I'm convinced the most creative power we have as educators is the power of belief. I subscribe to Ghandi's principle, "If I have the **belief** that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity **to do it** even if I may not have it at the beginning."

This belief is the fuel to my movement and my motivation. **As an educator, I am convinced that we are all powerful beyond what we recognize, and we are blessed with opportunities daily to use our power to impact the lives of our students now and in the future.**

Our mission in Crowley ISD is to ensure that our students are equipped to achieve their full potential. In order for our aspiration to be realized for our students, **we must first believe that what they are today and who they are today is only a glimpse of who they will become.** Today, we deal with the seed, and we must believe that it will grow into something special. Our responsibility is to speak life into them and ensure they know we believe they have the power to do great things.



As Ms. Hale did for Mrs. Booker 40 years ago, I challenge you to be willing to go the extra mile and teach life lessons to our students. Recognize that you will impact their lives by your thoughts, beliefs, words and actions. As you think, believe and act – they will become.

With something to think about, I'm Mike McFarland, reminding you to be intentional daily and speak to our students' possibilities.

Dr. Michael D. McFarland
Superintendent, Crowley ISD