

MONDAY MESSAGE

FROM DR. MCFARLAND



Time - Your Most Precious Asset

December 18, 2017

As we near the end of the 2017 calendar year, I am reminded that time is our most precious asset. **The investment of time we make in ourselves and in the students we serve is time well spent and one of the best investments we could make.** The return on the investment is immeasurable.



The older I get, the more I recognize that time is a precious gift and how we use our time has a direct connection to the quality of our life, our relationships and our effectiveness. The one commonality all people share – whether rich or poor, young or old, talented or not – is that we all have 24 hours, and how we use our 24 hours has a direct impact on our reality.

The way we use the time allotted to educate students not only impacts our effectiveness today, but it will also have lasting implications on the choices and opportunities provided for the students we serve. The challenge of our profession is that oftentimes we do not get the opportunity to experience the returns from our investment of time in students. Seldom do students return and say, “Thank you for taking the extra time with me.” I realize it does happen, but not at the scale that it should.

I remember educators who took special time with me. I remember Coach Baker who would stay after school and play catch with me to improve my throwing motion. I remember Mrs. Cauley who would allow me to come in early to her classroom and work on my assignments. I remember Mr. Lewis who took special interest in all of us and Mrs. Cooper who took her own time and money to take us on trips in Junior Historians. I remember Mrs. Kelly who would take the time in Sunday school to review our report cards, look over our homework and encourage us to do better. I remember Mrs. Mable who would give us a quarter for every good grade.

I remember what these educators did, but, more importantly, I appreciate the time they invested in me. The reality is that I have never been able to share with any of them how important their investment was in me. In most cases, they have passed on, or they continue investing in the youth with limited knowledge of the return on their investment in me. **As an educator, I challenge each one of you to realize that the investment you are making to educate, to encourage, to expose and to empower students today will result in a significant return on investment in the future.** You may never hear about the return, but the knowledge that you are investing your most precious asset – your time – in our most important future must become your own reward.

Thank you for your investment of time during 2017. I encourage you to be intentional during the holidays about investing in yourself and your family. Return to CISD in 2018 recharged, focused and committed to the work ahead, knowing that it will not be easy ... but it will be worth it.

With something to think about, I'm Mike McFarland, wishing you and your family a Happy Holidays!

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