

Our Mission Matters

May 6, 2019

I am writing this note from the banks of the Trinity River enjoying the awesome weather and reflecting on the importance of the work we are doing every day. As I sit and gaze at the beautiful sights and hear the sounds of nature, I am reminded how blessed and fortunate I am. I am thankful and grateful to have the opportunity to serve with each one of you. I recognize that we all could be anywhere else in the world accomplishing many other things, but we are here involved in what I call “mission” work.

I call it mission work because lives are changed as a result of the choices we make, the actions we take, the attitudes we display and the words we say. What we do matters! As educators and adults in influential positions, **I challenge each one of us to act with deliberate intention and speak life into students on purpose.** What you do and what you say to students matters. Zig Ziglar says that, “A lot of people have gone further than they thought they would because someone else thought they could.”

I have had opportunities to meet with students from throughout the district over the past month, and I have been quite impressed with their insight and perceptions of the work we do. It is clear to me that the students learn more from our attitudes, enthusiasm, energy and our actions than they do from our words. They constantly told me that what we do matters.



They pay attention to what we recognize and reward and what we choose not to notice. Whether we recognize it or not, they have mastered the art of inference and interpretation. Our elementary students could clearly infer when they were expected to succeed or not based on actions taken by adults – not the words, but the actions. High school students were sure that they were expected to excel by some and not by others and they mentioned specific ways the expectations were set by the actions of the adults, not just the words.

Pastor Vernon Robertson says, “The eyes of the future are looking back at us and hoping that we will see beyond our time.” As our students shared their greatest aspirations with me, I heard in their voices and saw in their eyes an unbridled hope, a definite trust and unyielding belief in their future and in us. They are pulling for us and trusting that we will do what is necessary so they are prepared when they leave. They are depending on us to carry out our mission.

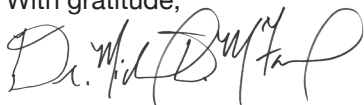
Our mission in Crowley ISD is to provide our students with excellence in education so that all students achieve their full potential. In order for our mission to be carried out, we must see the potential in them even when they do not see it in themselves. Then we must create systems, programs, practices and experiences to nurture their potential. Our focus must be on more than graduating students with a high school diploma. Our charge must be to ensure that they leave us with choices and opportunities.

I am convinced now more than ever that as good stewards and servant leaders, we must see beyond our time, we must act and we must prepare them for a future that does not currently exist.

All indications are that we are moving in the right direction. Our data shows that students are learning and growth is occurring throughout the district. The systems, programs, practices and procedures that we have all been collectively putting in place are showing positive results. What we have accomplished in the past year is encouraging. I am convinced that future initiatives and those currently in progress will continue to take us to the next level.

As we enter into the final stretch for the school year, I challenge you to finish strong and continue to be deliberate about what you say and what you do. Our mission matters. What you say is important. What you do makes the difference.

With gratitude,



Mike McFarland