



Who Will Be Wearing Your Jersey?

Sept. 16, 2019

Fall signifies the start of football season. This is one of my favorite times of the year. Seldom do I spend my entire weekend watching sporting events, but the start of the NFL season is one exception – especially now that the Cowboys are back on top. As I was watching this weekend's games, it was interesting to see all of the fans and the different jerseys they were wearing. It was particularly interesting to see grown men and women wearing the jersey of their teams' best players. I began to ponder what drove adults to want to wear a jersey with someone else's name on it.



I believe that it speaks to an **underlying desire in all of us to experience greatness and/or be as close to greatness as possible**. It is amazing that as you see the different jerseys that are available, it is usually only the most significant players, the most valuable players or the most exciting players whose jerseys people want to wear. You never see people wearing the jersey of a kicker in football, a reserve in basketball or a backup outfielder in baseball. The jerseys worn most often are those that represent greatness and significance as defined by our society and the fan base. Many fans have not personally experienced greatness, but they can identify with it by wearing the jersey and waving the flag. Everyone wants to be connected to and associated with a winner.

Behavioral scientists classify this as a need for significance, affirmation and belonging. I believe in each one of us there is a desire to be significant, to be important and to be great. I also believe that both significance and greatness are created in small daily choices one action at a time. **Greatness begins with a choice to reject mediocrity, and is followed with a commitment to take intentional actions to fully utilize the talents, gifts and abilities to improve the condition of others.**

As educators, we have the opportunity to make those daily choices that will lead to improved conditions for others and will result in greatness. Personally, I humbly admit that I am here in Crowley because I have an unadulterated desire to be significant. I want my life, my work, my choices and my actions to matter and to make things better for the students we serve. In the good book, it states that if we desire to be great, we must be willing to be a servant.

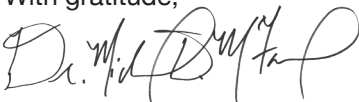
Who are we serving? I hope that we each can answer that question by our tangible acts of service to our students and families. It is in our willing service that we make the choices that will allow us to be great. Remember it is those small things that often go unnoticed that make the difference in improving the conditions for our students. The extra effort, the additional planning, the patience you extend and the grace and mercy you provide to students will show them you care and motivate them to move forward.

The challenge to realizing your significance is that oftentimes, there are no immediate visual signs that confirm your effort. It is in these instances that I encourage you to realize that the reward you seek for your efforts must come in your knowledge and the realization that your actions will improve conditions for students in the future. **If we commit to being great, we must realize that we are committing to service.** We are made great by service because our service will improve conditions for our students.

I challenge us to stay focused even when things get hard and success seems elusive. The work, sacrifice and service you provide for others will result in more choices and opportunities for our students. Recognize that as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Not everybody can be famous but everybody can be great, because greatness is determined by service. Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

With something to think about, I'm Dr. Michael McFarland reminding you that what you choose to do or not do will determine who will be wearing your jersey in the future.

With gratitude,



Mike McFarland