

MONDAY MESSAGE

FROM DR. MCFARLAND



Own It

October 2, 2017

Hello Crowley ISD family. I am excited to join the CISD team. Over the last two months, I have had the opportunity to learn about the context and reality of CISD and listen to the hopes, dreams and aspirations of many of the leaders in Crowley. I still have many more entry interviews to complete during my listening and learning phase, but I am already convinced that this district cannot only be a good district, **we can and will become a great district.**

If you work in CISD and have elected to be on the CISD team, I will be challenging us all to reject the status quo, to refuse to get comfortable with average, aspire to be great, to give great effort and build a system of great schools that produce great results for students. The leaders I have spoken with have been crystal clear to me about their desire to provide the very best for the students of CISD, and I am pledging to each of you that you will get **the best I have to offer.**

As I start my first day in Crowley ISD, I want each of you to know that I consider this a dream job and an opportunity to do for many others what was done for me. We have the opportunity and responsibility to give students hope as we prepare students academically.



Specifically, I am here today because of educators. I had 115 teachers from the first day of kindergarten to my last day of high school. However, two had significant impact on me to the point where I remember conversations I had with them and how they made me feel over 40 years later. My favorite and most impactful teacher was my high school typing teacher, Mrs. Marva Cauley. Mrs. Cauley did for me what I hope each one of you aspire to do for the students we serve. She spoke life into me. She gave me hope. She focused on my potential and taught me as if I were her own child. Even to this day she refers to me as her son. When I told her 25 years ago that I was going to be an educator she replied, "You will be great if you treat them as if they are your own children."



As we begin this journey today, **I pledge to treat each child as if they were my own** and to make each decision based on **what I would want for my child.** My focus moving forward will be to take the necessary actions to ensure that we have the right systems, programs, practices, people and policies to ensure that our students graduate from CISD with choices and opportunities and that as an educational system we are recognized as the **top in Tarrant County.** That is what I want for my child and what I believe all parents want for their children. I challenge each one of you to teach as if you were teaching your own child, lead as if you were leading your own child's school, serve as if your own child's education depends on it. The reality is that if we are going to become the type of school district and educational system we all aspire to be, we must **own it** and be intentional in our efforts.

Mrs. Cauley was so much more than my typing teacher. She owned her responsibility as an educator, and because of that, a country boy from the red dirt roads of East Texas is here today as superintendent. The choices and opportunities I have had are due, in part, to the fact that Mrs. Cauley owned it. **Make a choice today and every day to own it.**

With something to think about, I am Dr. Mike McFarland, encouraging you to be intentional about owning it and treat them like your own.

Dr. Michael D. McFarland
Superintendent, Crowley ISD