

September Staff Dev. Newsletter

A newsletter for the Seward Staff by Dr. Dominy

September- a note from Matt

It has been a wonderful start to the school year, and all of you deserve the credit for making that happen. Your positivity, integrity, and work ethic serves as a tremendous model for our students. Jon Gordon always sends out a list of the top 10 ways to be a positive educator. The one that resonates the most with me is, "believe in your students more that they believe in themselves." You might be that one person your student connects with and what you say matters. If you can help paint a better future and help students understand their talents, strengths, etc. their life trajectory may be very different.

Thank you for all that you do!

Matt

Jon Gordon- The Power of a Positive Educator

Be Positively Contagious – Research shows that emotions are contagious. Sincere smiles, kind words, encouragement and positive energy infect people in a positive way. On the flip side your students are just as likely to catch your bad mood as the swine flu. So, each day you come to school you have a choice. You can be a germ or a big dose of Vitamin C. When you choose to be positively contagious your positive energy has a positive impact on your students, your colleagues and ultimately your school culture. Your students will remember very little of what you said but they will remember 100% of how you made them feel. I remember Mrs. Liota and her smile and love, and it made all the difference.

Celebrate Success – One of the simplest, most powerful things you can do for yourself, and your students is to celebrate your daily successes. Instead of thinking of all things that went wrong at school each day focus on the one thing that went right. Try this: Each night before you go to bed think about the one great thing about your day. If you do this, you'll look forward to creating more success tomorrow. Also have your students do this as well. Each night they will go to bed feeling like a success and they will wake up with more confidence to take on the day.

Expect to Make a Difference – When positive educators walk into their classroom, they expect to make a difference in their student's lives. In fact, making a difference is the very reason why they became a teacher in the first place and this purpose continues to fuel them and their teaching. They come to school each day thinking of ways they can make a difference and expecting that their actions and lessons will lead to positive outcomes for their students. They win in their mind first and then they win in the hearts and minds of their students.

Believe in your students more than they believe in themselves – I tried to quit lacrosse during my freshman year in high school, but Coach Caiazza wouldn't let me. He told me that I was going to play in college one day. He had a vision for me that I couldn't even fathom. He believed in me more than I believed in myself. I ended up going to Cornell University and the experience of playing lacrosse there changed my life forever. The difference between success and failure is belief and so often this belief is instilled in us by someone else. Coach Caiazza was that person for me, and it changed my life. You can be that person for one of your students if you believe in them and see their potential rather than their limitations.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Many of us are fearful about the academic integrity of education in the days of artificial intelligence. Many of us were also fearful that the "internet" was going to irrevocably change education for the worse. We have two choices when we find ourselves in a technology revolution- bury or heads in the sand, or embrace the change and find the good. I know that in Seward, we really have only one choice- find the good.

AI has the ability to be an important tool in the classroom and has the potential to save teachers considerable time on organizational tasks. The thing to remember is that for both teachers and students who use AI, we need to have a base understanding of our topic as well as mastery-level in other areas in order to ensure that what AI produces is in fact what you were looking for.

The App "AI Magic Tool" may be the best AI tool out there for teachers. Once you log-in using your Google validation you will find "tools" that can help you generate lesson plans, generate academic content on a topic, generate a rubric, generate a math spiral review or math story problems, multiple choice generator, Coaches plans generator, etc. This App even allows you to create a song for a colleague or loved one!

The App link can be found below- Please log-in and give it a try and let me know what you think of it when you see me in the hallway or via email.

 <https://app.magics...>

app.magicschool.ai

MTSS

Our district focus for this school year will be Multi-Tiered Systems of Support. We will focus on behavior/mental health and academics within MTSS. To start the school year, we are going to build our MTSS R (behavior) model. This model will clearly articulate the supports that are available for all

students, some students at the Tier 2 level, and Tier 3 individualized services for students that are in the most need.

Here is an example of MTSS-B used in New Hampshire, it is not a perfect model, and we would not use everything in their model, but this gives us an idea of what it might look like:

<https://nhmtssb.org/what-is-mtss-b/overview/>

Patriotic Holidays

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724 requires the following:

Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, **Constitution Day**, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

Constitution Day is September 17th.

