

March Staff Development Newsletter

March 1st, 2024

A newsletter for the Seward Staff by Dr. Dominy

A message From Matt

Happy Birthday Nebraska!

This time of year always reminds me of a story of one of my biggest fails in my teaching career. I was teaching in Arizona, and Arizona celebrates statehood on February 14th (Valentine's Day). I was a 22-year-old fresh out of college Arizona 4th-grade teacher, and I thought that it was more important to celebrate Arizona's birthday than it was to celebrate Valentine's Day. I worked hard to plan an awesome day for kids - we had statehood bingo, birthday cake, AZ history games, etc. I informed parents of this amazing change through a note home the week before and I was very proud of my accomplishments, very sure that the parents and students would agree with me that it was much more important to celebrate statehood in 4th grade than a holiday like Valentine's Day.



I was wrong!

The principal and I were inundated with phone calls and notes from parents to give them a call (this was before everybody communicated with email). They were not happy! They wanted their kids to celebrate Valentine's Day, make the Valentine's Day boxes, and bring treats for all of their friends just like they did back when they were in school.

I survived the day, found ways to celebrate both events, and worked hard to rebuild the trust and relationships that had some minor damage. The principal was not mad at me, she just said - focus on Valentine's Day next time, and I did.

The moral of the story and the reason I am sharing it with you is that I want you to know that I have certainly made mistakes in my career and I will continue to make mistakes, but I owe it to you and all of the students and families to own my mistakes, learn from my mistakes, and grow to be a better person and educator. I hope as you reflect on this story you think about times when you may have made a mistake or the wrong decision and how it has made you a better educator. We have

fantastic responsibilities in our career, and our decisions and words have weight that go with people for years. When we understand this responsibility and own this responsibility, great things happen for our students and the people we work with.

I hope you have a wonderful March, and you find joy in each day!

Jon Gordon- If You Could Fly, Would You?

Before you answer the question, realize that most of us don't utilize the talents, gifts and abilities we have been given. We go through life with untapped potential and power, unwrapped gifts, unused talent and unfulfilled desires and dreams. So, while you might say "of course I would fly, if I could," then ask yourself why you aren't maximizing your gifts, abilities, talent and power right now.

If you aren't utilizing and maximizing the current power you possess, what makes you think you would use and maximize a newly acquired power? I want to encourage you to use the gifts you have, maximize your talent, and recognize the power you have to do amazing things. I've found the more we maximize our abilities, the more ability, opportunity, and gifts we receive.

Ask yourself, how much better your life would be if you developed your talents?

What would developing your mindset do for your career and happiness?

How high could you rise in your company or organization if you read more, learned more and invested more time and energy into growing yourself and your leadership capability?

What could you accomplish if you tapped into your power and potential?

While you may not be able to fly, if you decided to develop yourself, you would definitely soar!

More Information about Key Concepts

A great example of the "Diamond" model of MTSS

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1695748935/pcschoolsus/bnlrc8qytasebpz2ia5n/918232MTSSHandbook.pdf>

resources.finalsite.net

Patriotic Holidays

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.

There are no Patriotic Holidays this month.



Seward Public Schools

<https://www.sewardpublicschools.org/>