

May Staff Development Newsletter

May 1st, 2024

A newsletter for the Seward Staff by Dr. Dominy

That's a wrap!

The phrase above certainly comes from the film/media industry however, according to History of English, (Barker, 2024) "It not only symbolizes something that has been completed but something that has been finished to a satisfactory level. You would only yell "that's a wrap" if you are happy with the results. Otherwise, you would need to continue working."



I was fascinated and intrigued by that definition and of course, felt the need to contemplate this in our monthly newsletter. If you asked me if I was happy with the results of this school year, I would say that I am beyond happy, I am proud. I am proud of each of you and your willingness to do what it takes for students to succeed in the classroom and any activity or club they find themselves participating in.

In our school district we believe in pursuing excellence in all that we do, we know that we have areas that we have to grow and mistakes and failures that we will make, but we owe it to our students and families to pursue excellence, this shines through clearly in our new mission statement. The mission statement has been approved by the Board of Education, so feel free to use it. We will provide posters for your classrooms/offices when school begins in the fall. Here is our approved mission:

"Seward Public Schools - a district rooted in excellence - in cooperation with family and community members is committed to the development of the whole student and affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive, resilient, and contributing members of their community."

We will continue to work hard and prepare our students for the next grade level, or their next journey in life, but as of May 22nd, that's a wrap!

Jon Gordon- Focus on the Trail

While hiking with friends a few weeks ago, I asked our guide why he loved hiking so much. He said, "When I'm on the trail I'm only focused on the trail. I'm not thinking about yesterday or tomorrow. I'm not thinking about my problems or the problems of the world. I'm only focused on the trail and my next step. With loose rocks and uneven surfaces, hiking requires you to be in the present moment. Your next step must be your priority or else you can trip, fall and hurt yourself." What a great lesson for all of us! When you are on the trail, only focus on the trail. When you are with your family, focus on them, not work. When you are at work, focus on your work. When you are with your kids, focus on them not your cell phone. When you are at an in-person meeting, don't be on your laptop. Be engaged in the meeting.

Be where your feet are. Be mindful in the moment. Live in the present, instead of always worrying about the future and rehashing the past.

When you're on the path to success, focus on the process, one step at a time, to reach your destination.

Focusing on the trail will lead to a lot less trips and falls and create more peace of mind and a much more enjoyable and successful journey!

-Jon

An opportunity to learn more about MTSS



NeMTSS Summer Workshop Series | NeMTSS Framework | Nebraska Department of Education

Join us for NeMTSS Workshops this summer! The NeMTSS team is offering four workshops in June 2024 and a special summer Coffee Connect in July 2024.

nemtss.unl.edu

The best AI tools



AI Initiative

Common Sense Media's Artificial Intelligence initiative aims to help parents, educators, and policymakers understand the impact of AI on our kids through AI product ratings & reviews, AI literacy curricula, original research, and more.

commonsensemedia.org

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.

Memorial Day is May 27th.



Matt Dominy

Matt is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters