

September Staff Dev. Newsletter

September, 1, 2024

Thank you for a great start!

It is always impressive to me how the beginning of the school year comes together. I have the privilege at looking at multiple components of our incredible system. Each of these components have to be present in order for the system to move forward. It really is humbling when you consider the work of every employee group in ensuring that school starts smoothly.



Below you will see an article from Jon Gordon, those of you who have been here know that I like to share his work. He has helped me greatly, and my hope is that something I send along to all of you might resonate. This is one of his articles that I most resonate with, the ability to see greatness in others. Many of you know my story, the deck of cards I was given was lackluster at best. The first person who took that deck of cards and threw them out was Mrs. Holly Mumm, my 4th grade teacher at Hebron Intermediate School. Mrs. Mumm saw way more in me than I could ever see in myself, she challenged me, gave me feedback, praised me and told me that I was going to achieve great things. I am forever indebted to her for this gift.

You all have this precious power as well to see the greatness in others, I hope that you will join me in articulating that greatness, you never know how far your impact may reach.

Thank you again for a great start to our school year!

Matt

See Greatness in Others- Jon Gordon

The other day I posted a graphic on social media that said, "If you want to be a great leader, start by seeing greatness in others, and then inspire, encourage, and coach them to achieve it." A number of people responded to me saying, "That's you Jon. You do this all the time. You see the best in people. That's your gift."

The truth is I didn't post that quote to generate those encouraging responses. I posted it because I wanted to encourage people to see the greatness in others and bring out the best in them. Far too many people don't see the best in people and others are too focused on themselves to see anything in others. As Maya Angelou said, "You can't be a great leader if all you see is yourself." I posted that quote because I want to help others become better leaders. And yet, as people responded with their kind comments I thought about my life and it's true that I do see the best in people. I see their potential and what they become. In fact, my co-author of [The Coffee Bean](#), Damon West, tells me all the time that I didn't see him as an ex-convict who spent 7 years in jail. I saw him as someone who was going to impact the world with *The Coffee Bean* message and he has.

I really do see the greatness in others but that also means that sometimes I get burned. Sometimes people don't live up to that belief. Sometimes people wrong me. When this happens, I can allow these people and moments to make me cynical or I can choose to continue to see the best in people. Over the years I have chosen to continue to see the best in more and more people. Of course, it's important to have discernment and since I have been burned many times I have great discernment now. :) But, even when my gut says "watch out" I still see what that person can become if they work hard, live with integrity and make good decisions. I want to encourage you to see the greatness in others. See their potential and help them achieve it. More often than not, they will rise up to your level of belief in them. Have a great week!
-Jon

Monthly Safety Topic- Back Injuries and safe lifting

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/videoresource/stpbkinj.pdf>

tdi.texas.gov

An MTSS Story



Experience Spotlight: How My School Transitioned to MTSS

When transitioning to MTSS, we learned about tiered supports and students moving in and out of receiving interventions, and about strategies to improve our core instruction.

branchingminds.com

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.

Constitution Day is September 17th, 2024



Seward Public Schools