

# October Staff Development News

October 1st, 2024

## A message from Matt

Greetings everyone, it is always an honor to share a little time with you, the staff that make the difference in student's lives every day. I am grateful for you and so impressed at your use of instructional strategies, relationship building, classroom management, etc. that I get to see when I walk into your classroom. Our students are blessed to have great teachers and staff around them every day ensuring their success.



I thought Jon's article below was energizing. He describes a teacher in New York, who is still a practicing substitute teacher at age 95! If you think about that, this equates to twice the career of the average educator! Jon asks this teacher what her secret to success and longevity could be contributed to and she shared - being positive, having a positive attitude, gratitude, and purpose.

I am not sure that people in education have a full understanding of their impact- their purpose- the lives that they change. I want to encourage each of you this month to consider your purpose and find those moments where your purpose comes to life- a student who finally makes the blend you have been studying, a high school student who opens up to you about an issue they are facing, a student who laughs in your class for the first time. We don't have to have grand gestures- think homecoming invites- to know that we are living our purpose. If we are going to meet our full potential and longevity we are meant to achieve, we have to be clear about our purpose and keep that in front of us every day.

Thank you

Matt

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**John Gordon**

Ruby has been teaching so long that she taught the grandparents of some of her current students. She is 95 years old and is a substitute teacher at Birch Lane elementary school in Massapequa, NY.

I met her while speaking at her school a few weeks ago and thought she was in her 70's, not 90's. I couldn't believe she was 95 and when you [watch this video](#) I think you'll be surprised too. I asked her what her secret was.

She said being positive and having a positive attitude was key.

Of course, I loved hearing that as I had just shared the importance of positivity as part of my Energy Bus presentation to the school. Their theme this year is all about Positive Energy. I asked Ruby if she intentionally tried to stay young. She said she never thought about age. She felt blessed to still be teaching after all these years. She said, "You know schools aren't hiring teachers my age." I wanted to say that's because there aren't many people, including teachers, your age. :) She said she was always grateful for the opportunity to teach and still is. It was clear that gratitude was and is a big part of her life and she lives with a grateful heart.

The last secret was that she lives with purpose and a feeling of relevance. She shared how many of her former students who are now teachers were there to celebrate her 90th and 95th birthday. It is clear she loves making a difference and has no plans to stop teaching and impacting others. Ruby said she knows she has an expiration date and keeps looking for it but can't find it. :) She loves her job. She loves her students. She loves making a difference. She is grateful for all of it and stays positive through it.

We often make life complicated, but Ruby's recipe is simple, powerful and a great lesson for all of us.

We may not have her great genes, but we can certainly adopt her great attitude and mindset to live as long and as happy as possible.

Have a great week!

Jon

P.S. The video I shared of Ruby went viral and CBS did a well-deserved feature on her. [You can watch it here.](#)

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## The "Why" of MTSS

- Improves student outcomes using meaningful research
- Offers a more broad scope of services than Response to Intervention
- Integrates academic, behavioral and social-emotional supports
- Builds capacity among all educators
- Places a strong emphasis on prevention
- Examines systems-level data to identify variables that are producing current results
- Reduces the need for learning disabilities identification
- Simplifies life for highly burdened school staff

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## Upcoming October PD Day

Our October Staff Development Day will feature a variety of topics as outlined below:

- QPR- This is for all staff, classified staff, please email Amanda Murman if you are unable to attend and she will send an online training (8:15-9:15 HS Theater).
  - Math Curriculum Review
  - Action Teams
  - MTSS Leadership Meetings
  - Special Education Staff Meeting
  - District Wellness Committee
  - Flu Shots- 3:00-4:00- MS Cafeteria- Anyone on our insurance plan.
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## 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 in October.

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**Seward Public Schools**