

# November Staff Development News

November, 1, 2024

*A newsletter for the Seward Staff by Dr. Dominy*

## **A note from Matt**

Welcome to November everyone! The holiday months are upon us and I hope you get the time to enjoy this season and embrace all that it has to offer. October/November is also the time period for our capstone experiences for our Fall activities. We have certainly had great success in all areas, and I am thankful to our coaches, sponsors, and volunteers for sharing countless hours ensuring a successful experience for our students.



In this newsletter, I wanted to reflect and celebrate on the Band's Division 1 Superior rating at the the NSBA state festival. There are so many parallels to teaching and learning and the band experience.

\*Band Director selects a Routine that will showcase the skills of the Band- Teacher selects materials that will engage students in the learning.

\*Daily guided practice in the heat of Summer and the cold of Fall where the Band Director makes adjustments to the routine based on what the students are demonstrating- Daily practice in the classroom, guided practice, and independent practice with adjustments made by the teacher when the students are getting it, not getting it.

\*Performances on Friday nights and statewide band competitions- Formative assessment- are the students getting it, do we need to make adjustments, how are we doing related to our course objectives/rubrics, end of course goals/standards?

\*NASB state festival- Summative assessment measured against a predetermined rubric that was clearly defined at the beginning of the season/course.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kenney and the SHS Band- we are proud of your efforts as well as the efforts of all of our Fall activities- Thank you for creating special moments for our students!

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## Jon Gordon- Play to Win

There was a time in most of our lives when we had no fear-that feeling when we jumped from the jungle gym and slammed our little bodies to the ground. Perhaps it was when we went on our first roller coaster, or when we were in high school or college and felt that there was nothing we couldn't do. No goal was unattainable. We were an unstoppable force that would think of something and then make it happen. Then, as time goes by, the world tells us more frequently that we can't do what we want. The doubters laugh at our goals and try to persuade us from going after our dreams.

They say, "You're crazy. It's too hard. Why don't you do this instead? You should play it safe." They act as if dreams were meant for others but not people like us. They surround us with negative energy and try to instill their own fears and insecurities in us. We not only begin to know the word "fear," we start to understand what it's like to be fearful. With so many people telling us we can't do something and so few telling us we can, it's hard not to let fear into our lives. Unfortunately this is how many of us go through life.

Whether you are 20 or 50, many of us become so scared of losing what we have that we don't go after what we truly want. We play it safe and hold on so tight to the status quo that we never experience what could be. We believe the doubters and don't take chances that will move us one step towards our dreams. I call this "playing to lose."

We see this in sports all the time when a team has the lead. They start to think about how not to lose instead of how to win. They hold on so tight to their lead that they start playing safe and scared. You can see it in their energy and body language. As a result the other team takes chances, plays with no fear and eventually gains the momentum and wins.

To live a life filled with positive energy we must learn to repel the energy of fear. Whether it comes from within or from another person, we must overcome fear and adopt a "Play to Win" mindset. Playing to win requires a commitment to yourself that even if you fail, you will never give up and never let your goals and dreams die.

Those who play to win know that success is not given to us. It is pursued with all the energy and sweat we can muster. Obstacles and struggles are part of life and only serve to make us appreciate our success.

If everything came easy we wouldn't know what it felt like to truly succeed. Obstacles are meant to be overcome. Fear is meant to be conquered. Success is meant to be achieved. They are all part of the game of life and the people who succeed play to win and never give up until the game is over.

-Jon

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## The Guide to Solving the Top Four MTSS Challenges

A guide that explores the top four MTSS challenges, and how to solve them

[branchingminds.com](https://branchingminds.com)

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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.

Veterans Day- November 11

Thanksgiving- November 28

Native American Heritage Day- November 29



**Seward Public Schools**