

March Staff Development Newsletter

March 1, 2025

Developing the Whole Student Through Academic Excellence

At Seward Public Schools our purpose is rooted in the belief that developing the whole student means equipping every learner with the skills to become productive, resilient, and contributing members of their community. This commitment comes to life through opportunities that challenge students to grow academically, socially, and personally.



The recent Academic Decathlon is a shining example of this work in action. Through rigorous preparation, collaboration, and perseverance, students not only expanded their knowledge but also built confidence, teamwork, and a sense of accomplishment. These experiences go beyond competition – they foster the resilience and critical thinking skills that empower students to thrive in any path they choose.

As we continue to offer activities that support academic achievement and personal growth, we celebrate the dedication of our students and the educators who guide them along the way.

11 Ways to Build Trust

In my book [Soup](#) I share how trust is one of the essential ingredients to build a great relationship, winning team and culture of greatness. Without trust you can't have engaged relationships and without engaged relationships you won't be a successful leader, manager, sales person, team member, principal, teacher, nurse, coach, etc.

In this spirit I wanted to share some thoughts about how we can build the trust that is essential for great relationships. So here are 11 thoughts about trust. Feel free to share these simple reminders with your leaders, colleagues and team.

1. Say what you are going to do and then do what you say!
2. Communicate, communicate, communicate. Frequent, honest communication builds trust. Poor communication is one of the key reasons marriages and work relationships fall apart.
3. Trust is built one day, one interaction at a time, and yet it can be lost in a moment because of one poor decision. Make the right decision.
4. Value long term relationships more than short term success.
5. Sell without selling out. Focus more on your core principles and customer loyalty than short term commissions and profits.
6. Trust generates commitment; commitment fosters teamwork; and teamwork delivers results. When people trust their team members they not only work harder, but they work harder for the good of the team.
7. Be honest! My mother always told me to tell the truth. She would say, "If you lie to me then we can't be a strong family. So don't ever lie to me even if the news isn't good."
8. Become a coach. Coach your customers. Coach your team at work. Guide people, help them be better and you will earn their trust.
9. Show people you care about them. When people know you care about their interests as much as your own they will trust you. If they know you are out for yourself, their internal alarm sounds and they will say to themselves "watch out for that person."
10. Always do the right thing. We trust those who live, walk and work with integrity.
11. When you don't do the right thing, admit it. Be transparent, authentic and willing to share your mistakes and faults. When you are vulnerable and have nothing to hide you radiate trust.

What did I miss? Join the conversation and share your thoughts about trust with me on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

-Jon

MTSS Success Story



Nevada Multi-Tiered System of Supports initiative drives statewide student success | University of Nevada, Reno

Schools with strong implementation saw higher student achievement, improved attendance and reductions in behavioral incidents

unr.edu

Homeland Security Visit

I want to thank everyone who helped with the Homeland Security visit. We want to make sure that we are providing the safest environment possible for our students and staff. This visit helped us validate the things we are doing well while challenging us to address some opportunities to make school safety in our district stronger. A common theme was to get our security practices (Action

Steps) down on paper so that we can communicate them to all and ensure continuity of our safety operations.

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 March- Happy Birthday Nebraska on March 1!



Matt Dominy

Matt is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters