

1.24.16

Good Afternoon,

At Mass today there was a popular reading from I Corinthians that is often used by Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddles and chaplains working in team environments. It talks about the importance of everyone, and their roles in the Church using the parts of the body as a metaphor. It struck a chord with me today because this is the 2nd anniversary of the fire that destroyed the Bus Garage and our Board Offices.

On that day, and in the weeks to follow, so many people participated in getting the district back on its feet. Some like Amplex offered critical infrastructure support that allowed us to have school with a working network, and others simply showed support by generously bringing in cookies or lunch while we were working out of the trailer. We had to make substantial adjustments to find work spaces for everyone who was displaced. Our teachers had to rebuild lessons created over the years that were lost. However, we made it through because everyone worked together.

Educating our students requires the work of many hands, and Eastwood Schools does not function without a coordinated effort between community members, parents, students, and our staff. Within the Eastwood team, we have bus drivers who are often the first face our kids see on a school day. School does not even happen without transportation, clean buildings, food service, and support staff. Some may see those roles as being minor, but try having school without buses!

In our classrooms, the teachers, aides, and support personnel are clearly on center stage as they fulfill the core mission of trying to help students learn a demanding curriculum. Learning itself scaffolds itself from grade level to grade level and subject to subject. Each part of the team has an essential responsibility.

In no time in the history of education has the role of the parent been more rigorous or critical. If students are to be successful in mastering today's requirements, the 6.5 hours they spend in the classroom is insufficient for many children. Parents must be more involved and create the structures at home to extend the learning day and support students.

Finally, we rely on tax dollars from community members, along with other sources of funding to provide the resources and staff needed to run a complex organization.

Every organ, limb, or system is essential for our bodies to perform at peak levels. Take one away and watch as we struggle to overcome the loss. Our school district is similar, and I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the role they fulfill in educating our kids.

Best Wishes and Have a Great Week!!!