



# WEEKLY LEADERSHIP CONNECTION

Friday, May 1, 2015



## ● DISTRICT MESSAGE

This is a very important week for two reasons, state assessments begin for some and we show teachers appreciation for their hard work during the school year. First, take time this week to tell teachers that you appreciate their dedication to the profession, but more importantly, their dedication to students. Remind them that teaching is the greatest profession, as they get to touch the future each day. As administrators it is important for us to keep in mind just how invaluable our teachers are in determining student success and school success. In the absence of teachers, think where the world would be. On a local level, it is impossible for administrators to really commit to continuous improvement, school improvement without teachers.

As state assessments begin this week for many of our students, it will be critical for us, administrators, to convey the message of confidence and hope to students. Tell your students that you not only expect them to do well, but you know that they will. Tell students to leave nothing behind and give the assessments their best. We often fail to understand the importance of student effort in determining student success. Students need to know there is always hope in order to be successful.

Make sure that you not only make encouraging announcements, but you visit each classroom and deliver a message of encouragement and excitement. Furthermore, emphasize that instruction must be strategic and focused, not thrown together at the last minute. Students should be engaged not passively involved. Strategic preparations require students be active, as teachers become facilitators of student learning. Look at preparations that are occurring in each classroom. Pay close attention to those teachers who maximize student engagement as opposed to those teachers who struggle with student engagement. Notice the differences not just in their preparation plans, but in the levels of student engagement and student confidence. As students are more engaged in last minute preparations, their confidence increases. It is essential that students are confident on the day of the test.

Student preparations are not isolated to only state assessed courses, but should be a focus throughout the school and district. Highly effective schools are effective as a result of staff collaborations, school-wide and district-wide collaboration. Every teacher is critical in increasing student achievement and is also responsible for student success on the state assessments. Every teacher can incorporate last minute preparations in their courses. This teamwork and collaboration leads to increases in student achievement and morale. Teachers who are in courses that are assessed at the state level should never feel that they carry the burden of student achievement alone. Everyone in the school and district is responsible for student achievement. As administrators, it is important that we convey this message to our staffs.

Lastly, as you walk your building you should feel and see intensity in all courses. Pay attention to bell-to-bell instruction, the number of students in the hallways, as well as, student and staff attendance. Preparation plans that are focused and strategic require every minute of the class to be utilized, no down time. More importantly, teachers who have strategic plans have conveyed the expectation that students must be at school and remain in class. Additionally, students who are fortunate to have strategic and focused teachers understand their role in preparing for success and understand the importance of being in class and prepared for success.

Administrators, this week is very important. Make sure that you take the time to say thank you to teachers. Teachers, like students, need to hear words of encouragement from us, as well as, words of appreciation. We must remember that, if it were not for teachers, we would not be where we are today.

As always, we only succeed when students succeed. Finish Strong!

Lastly, you can now follow Mr. Creasman on Twitter at [#FCSSuper](#) where you can receive information, snapshots of events, or even “I Gotcha Moments.” Below is our instructional message for the next few weeks – Finish Strong!



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| ▪ <b>Monday, May 4, 2015</b> | District Team Meeting at 9:00 am - Board Room |
| ▪ <b>Friday, May 8, 2015</b> | NBCT Applications are due by 5:00 pm est      |