

HOPE NOTE

January 4, 2019

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2019 and the second half of our school year. The district-wide SEL Committee continues to meet and we are preparing for our mid-year review at the all HOPE Teams meeting on January 14, 2019. If you recall, our meeting in January of 2018 served as the launch for this year's SEL initiative, so we are looking forward to a day of synergism, innovation and purpose.

I want to thank our SEL committee once again for their hard work, as well as those of you who came in over the summer to review PBIS lesson plans and prepare the opening of school events. Equally essential are those of you who continue to work with the MTSS and PBIS teams to keep the momentum going throughout the district. Your investments have not gone unnoticed. During this year's annual meeting, we will review our progress on the deployment of our SEL initiative and identify OFI's to address going forward. As indicated in our Leadership Model, we never rest on our laurels. Instead, we monitor progress and improve.



Leadership Model

In our effort to manage by fact, building principals will share data from student and staff SOAR surveys, members of the SEL committee will share their perspectives on strengths and OFI's from across the district and at the building level, and we will determine how best to communicate with our parents and key stakeholders. In the spirit of the aphorism which states, "the rising tide lifts all boats", responsibility for the progress of our district cannot and must not rest with a select few. SEL is a great example of how school culture and safety impact all of us. Therefore, it can only be changed when we lend our collective voices to that change. While you may not be physically present in our January meeting, your feedback will be carefully reviewed and considered. So, please share concerns or ideas that you would like the team to consider in January's meeting.

We will also use this year's meeting to determine what our next district-wide focus should be for the 2019-2020 school year. As you know, SEL is and will continue to be a major undertaking, so identifying the next hurdle to tackle as a district will be no small feat! We have our work cut out for us.

My Brown Bags with the Superintendent are also opportunities for you to share with me directly. So far, I have gotten some great ideas and feedback from those of you who have attended. If I have not gotten to your lunch period yet, don't worry. I will get there. Many of you have shared the differences that you've seen in student-student interactions, staff-student interactions, and your own personal interactions with each other. You have also indicated that we still have work to do and I respect your willingness to share this as well.

Your feedback is critical to me and helps to fuel my leadership of the district. We can never act upon every recommendation, but we are listening and encourage you to keep sharing, keep reflecting, and keep innovating. I will provide an overview of our work during January's meeting in a future HOPE Note, and trust that you will continue to see that your labor is not in vain. The rising tide raises all boats!

In partnership,

Tamara Willis, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Piece of the Puzzle



ATTENDANCE IS STILL UP!!! We continue to see improved student attendance across *every grade level* across the district! This is not a fluke. This is the result of your efforts and your focus on making our schools safe and supportive for students and engaging parents in the critical work that we do. Hats off to each of you and thank you for your service to our students.