



Superintendent's HOPE Note - October 2021

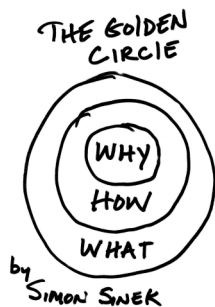
"It's not whether you get knocked down. It's whether you get up." - Vince Lombardi

CHOOSE to Focus on our WHY

It would require very little effort to succumb to the onslaught of stressors facing us as a result of the past 19 months. Some days, we may actually welcome the thought of giving up the fight and simply calling it quits. After all, we can only exist in an elevated state of anxiety for so long before it begins to take a physical toll on all of us. So what do we do when we are increasingly exhausted and feel that our resolve is gone? In those moments, we must **choose** to focus on our *why*. In his now famous *TEDTalk* from 2009, Simon Sinek describes the *why* as our purpose, unlike the *who* or the *how* of what we do.

We are a school district. But, our *why* is not a simple commitment to the physical act of teaching. We have been given the immense responsibility to ensure that our young people *learn*, have multiple post-secondary *options* and are *prepared* to be positive contributors to the world that we will leave them. Lives are in our hands.

We have all been challenged and stretched to the limits of our mental and emotional capacities. That is a stark reality. So, what do we tell our learners when they show up everyday? What do we tell their families when they release them into our care each morning with the expectation that their child/ren will receive a quality education?



Focus on why you decided to join the STSD family. Focus on why you chose to enter the field of education. Focus on the learner who looks to YOU to provide a safe environment, facilitate their learning and help them to envision *their* future.

When we don't show up, students don't learn. When we don't show up, some students don't eat. When we don't show up, many students feel less safe. Showing up is more than just being physically present. Showing up means that we are committed to our *why* and we are purposeful in our work. It is so tempting to just check out and go through the motions this year. After surviving the last 19 months of the pandemic, more and more folks across professions have done just that. However, we owe it to our learners to be present, both physically and mentally.

Their futures are in our hands.

Learner Spotlight: Did You know?

We currently have middle school learners who travel to the high school to take high school courses for credit? These learners have demonstrated evidence of proficiency in the middle school curriculum and rather than confining them to a middle school classroom because they are not "high school aged", we are accelerating their learning by opening this opportunity to them.

These learners may later decide to do an internship, take more advanced courses (high school or dual enrollment), do an independent study or graduate early. As we provide more learning options, we increase the likelihood that learners will receive their **first choice**. This is what the success of every learner looks like!

Hats off to our Middle School Team.



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Our Roadmap: The District's Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan reflects the culmination of an extensive and iterative process focused on improving outcomes for learners, team members, district families and key stakeholders within the community. The district developed its Leadership Improvement Model to drive all performance improvement efforts. This systems perspective approach allows the district to identify strategic challenges, foster innovation, demonstrate organizational agility and achieve its mission and vision. The Baldrige Excellence Framework, adopted in 2016, has been the foundation of the district's Leadership Improvement Model. Referred to as Hanna's Organizational Performance Excellence (HOPE), the district's improvement system encompasses all areas of the organization that directly and indirectly impact the learning experience and student achievement.

The Strategic Plan is our roadmap. Our decisions are driven by this document, our mission, our vision and our core values. Thank you to all who participated in our All HOPE Teams meetings in January and May. We encourage more of you to participate this year!

We will review each of our Critical Success Factors (CSFs) and supporting objectives in upcoming HOPE Notes. Why? **Because we cannot achieve our goals if we do not review them and monitor our progress regularly.**

Visit the district's webpage to see the full [Strategic Plan](#) or to view objectives in each Critical Success Factor (CSF).



Piece of the Puzzle

Please join me in recognizing Claudia Huber, our Student Services Coordinator. Under Mrs. Huber's leadership, the district passed its McKinney-Vento monitoring visit from the Pennsylvania Department of Education with flying colors! The McKinney-Vento Act requires that districts provide supports and services to families experiencing homelessness. Thank you, Claudia, for all that you do to support our learners and their families.

If you believe that someone deserves this recognition, please send their names our way! All are welcome. 😊😊