

MONDAY MESSAGE

FROM DR. MCFARLAND



The Price of Admission

July 30, 2018

I trust you have enjoyed your summer break and are excited about returning to Crowley ISD for the 2018-2019 school year. I am excited about what is to come for CISD and the students we serve, but I also appreciate the time away and slower pace of summer.

Whether you spent the time traveling the country and visiting exotic places, enjoying family while sipping lemonade, relaxing with a special someone or just binge-watching Netflix while dimpling your couch, the time always seems to pass too quickly. Like many of you, I hate to see the summertime pass, but I am thankful that I get the privilege to return to my passion, my purpose and what I consider the most noble profession. As educators, we own a privilege that not many possess. We have the awesome opportunity to impact the lives of students in a significant way over the next 185 days, and the bonus is we get paid to do it. It is my prayer that each of you have realized during the break that the work we do daily is mission driven and purpose filled.

During my summer, I had the opportunity to watch the 2018 NBA Championship and several games of the 2018 FIFA Soccer World Cup and I was intrigued by the stories behind many of the successful teams. In my brief research on the championship teams, I noticed when the players were interviewed, they spoke a common language concerning their values, their commitment to the team and the challenges they had to overcome. The more interviews I watched, the more intrigued I became. It was obvious that talent and skills were important at the professional level, but interestingly, no one mentioned it as the difference maker. **The successful teams operated with one voice and one vision with a focus on a common set of values.**

It was interesting to hear what it took to be a part of their team. They were intentional and explicit in communicating the price of admission for their teams in their words and actions. You could see it in how they responded to success and reacted to failure. Values trump everything else, and championship teams led with their values. **Talent is not enough to achieve sustainable success.**

Upon my arrival several months ago, I heard from many of you, as well as parents, students and others, and I embraced the consistent desire that Crowley ISD can become a championship organization.

During our leadership retreat in June, we engaged in several activities to help us clarify our values as leaders of Team CISD. The list below is a summation of brainstorming sessions and indicate the values we collectively selected as the "Price of Admission" for Team CISD.

1. Passion with High Expectations
2. Integrity
3. Commitment to Growth Mindset
4. Innovator's Mindset
5. Collaborative Mindset
6. Courtesy, Dignity, Respect and Professionalism



I am looking forward to your return to the team and to the work that we have before us. As you wrap up the last few days of your break, I encourage you to spend some time preparing to become a Game Changer for the students we serve. We have a significant challenge ahead and much work to do, but I believe that Team CISD will pay the "Price of Admission." Let's return to the work prepared and become a Game Changer for the students we serve.

I look forward to greeting all of you at convocation.

Dr. Michael D. McFarland
Superintendent, Crowley ISD

Important dates

- August 1: New Professional Orientation begins
- August 7: Teachers return
- August 9: Convocation
- August 21: First Day of School