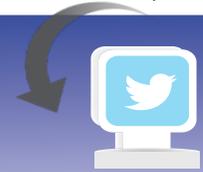


The Monti Navigator

Be Greater than the Average



Tammy Mangus, Superintendent of Schools

March 2016

Dear Member of the Monticello Community,

THINK

Last school year, we introduced THINK. We agreed that everyone involved with our school system should ponder, before a single word was uttered, if their statements were going to be:

Truthful,
Helpful,
Inspiring,
Necessary, and
Kind.

We discussed repeatedly that a THINKing world does not need to be one filled with sunshine and complacency-forming rainbows, but rather, a world that THINKs is critical, yet graceful and diplomatic.

A THINKing educational system, like MCSD, behaves this same way to move beyond mediocrity and grow towards greatness. THINK about it this way:

To circulate truth, we must ponder multiple viewpoints. The viewpoint that is fastest and easiest to get, is probably the furthest thing from the truth and usually has the trustworthiness of one of those used car salesmen from the 1970's that we see caricaturized in films.

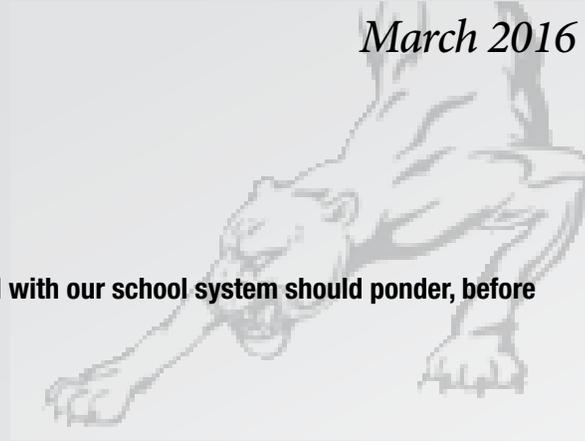
To be helpful, we must get to the purpose, our WHY. There are plenty of nice things to be done in our world, but if we strive to be helpful, our actions must be centered around a powerful purpose.

True inspiration is catching. You can't escape its power, and the lessons learned haunt you as you go about your day. (Think about the inspirational lessons learned during our last conference day...Inspirational and haunting .)

Necessity goes hand and hand with that powerful WHY. It helps us zero in on our outcome expectations and target each action we take.

Kindness is diplomacy....it is not creating a false reality to make life easier. Each day there are important, critical messages to be shared. How we share them can make all the difference.

The short version is this: Our kids matter, every single one of them. Their lives are not myopic. There are many sides to ponder as we seek to educate them. It's easy enough to bargain away why any one of them might not be successful, but we must not be sold on the quickest and easiest reason in any situation. Why? Because of our WHY.....That education = opportunity. If we don't inspire our kids to be better tomorrow than they are today through critical and



diplomatic messages, we are all in a heap of trouble. After all, we must take care of our youth to protect ourselves in old age. Our kids are our future. The world we live in today is a direct result of actions taken by each of us as well as previous generations. Let's THINK about that as we grow forward.

Be well, and thanks for consistently inspiring me.

Be well,

**Tammy Mangus
Superintendent of Schools**

