

MODEL SCHOOLS, MONTI INSIGHTS: A MONTHLY REFLECTION FROM MONTICELLO EDUCATORS.

Each year, a team of Monticello staff members attends the Model Schools Conference, where they are immersed in opportunities to learn about innovative, out-of-the-box strategies that are transforming education and student success nationwide. This year, we asked each attendee from our district to bring some of that knowledge back to Monticello. Each month, the Navigator will feature a "spotlight" story highlighting new ways to engage our students and prepare them to be life-ready students. Our June spotlight is courtesy of MHS Assistant Principal Christopher Palmer.

It is hard to believe that the year is quickly approaching its close. With that being said, there is still much to do! Whether you are cramming in those lessons you had not had time to get to, packing up your room when you have a moment, making those very important parent contacts, or creating the final assessments needed to see student growth, we all have our students in mind.

As a new member of the MCSD Model Schools Team, I was certain that when I attended the Model Schools Conference I was going to bring back all of the positive that I could. Upon attending the Keynote Speaker presentations and the many sessions, I realized quickly, that I was surrounded with professionals who were just that, positive. From the general conversations that took place among the attendees as well as with the team members, the positivity was exciting. The goal I had set for myself upon our return was to be BOLD. This would be important with the incoming freshman class, having truthful conversations supported with kindness, helping the at-risk students envision the future by having them put on a graduation cap and gown and take their picture, and continue building the relationships between parents, students and staff. This was a lofty goal that I am still in hot pursuit of!

In order to prepare for this installation of the Model Schools update, I re-read those that were published previously. I was recharged with the positivity that I experienced during the Model Schools Conference last June. Each post gave insight to how Model Schools was influential in how we are bringing positive impact to student learning and life in MCSD. From the Top 10 from Mr. Wilder that directly supported his belief that personalization of the learning experience for students is the greatest leverage point for raising student success, to Ms. Cahalan's desire to be mindful of the Tinker/Thinker in her Middle School Art room, to Mrs. Steinberg's enthusiasm with BOLD GOALS! BIG IDEAS! and she has brought her own version of these to the high school, to KellyAnn Olsen's take away as a first year teacher that support her goals to better the culture and engage students in the classroom environment, Mrs. Knowlton's leadership in developing students who are divergent learners, problem solvers and innovators through their participation in the new "Club Friday" program, Mrs. Romano embracing the statements; "Culture Trumps Strategy" and "Caring Is King" and how they will support and improve the culture at Cooke, Mrs. Gallett sharing the positive impact of the Rigor and Relevance in the Chase Makerspace which was highlighted at a BOE meeting, and Joann Kelleher embedding Math Talks during instruction giving her the opportunity to see and hear how students think, which she learned about at the Model Schools Conference.

The MCSD Model Schools Team works to bring the best to Monticello and improve the overall environment and learning of all the stakeholders. Please consider being a part of a future team. Together, we can accomplish great things.

Christopher Palmer

June 2017, Christopher Palmer