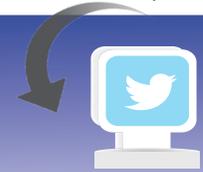


# The Monti Navigator

Be Greater than the Average



Tammy Mangus, Superintendent of Schools

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## MCS D: a district with 2020 vision

This is our year!!!

At the beginning of September, our Model Schools Team launched our year-long Life-Ready Initiative, created by our students, our teachers and our community partners! The team worked hard to identify the seven life-readiness skills that are necessary for our students to obtain before they walk out our doors.

Those skills are:



- Goal-Setting and Getting
  - Awareness
  - Integrity
  - Collaboration
  - Tenacity
  - Responsibility
  - Communication

Each month, this Navigator will focus on one key skill so that we can all dive deep, be proactive in our learning of that skill and ensure that those around us, especially our students, are overtly aware of our intention as a school district to develop and master each skill.

This month we will focus on [goal-setting](#) and [goal-getting](#).



Back on our district-wide opening day, our guest speaker asked us all to choose three words that define the work that we do. Specifically, he asked for three verbs. He stated that if we were to internalize these words and outwardly post them we would remember the most important actions we needed to take each and every day in order to be the best we can be, and do an impeccable job at our job. These three words would also help us ensure that the work we do each day leads to achievement of our goals!

Many of you have taken on that challenge and have shared with me your three words and their significance to you in your work to shape the lives of our kiddos. Like all of you, I pondered what my three words would be, and I ultimately settled into three words that I believe clearly define my work as Superintendent of Schools. Those words are: [READ](#), [LEAD](#) and [BE WELL](#).

I chose the word [READ](#), because I know that research and data outcomes prove that a child or adult's inability to

read on level significantly limits their opportunities for success. Indeed, if a child cannot read, they will never be able to ask or answer questions about the important things regarding our nation or our world; they will never be able to develop evidence-based opinions and ideals; they will never be able to write citing evidence to prove their claims, opinions and ideals, and they will never truly be able to speak with authority on topics that are important to them and topics that have an impact on our world both today and in the future.



I chose the word **LEAD**, because I know that in order for any organization to be successful, the chief operating officer must be capable of setting a vision that allows folks to understand expectations and outcomes. Additionally, that leader must build capacity for that vision through intentional communications. When done appropriately, that vision begins to become a reality based not on the actions or micro-management of that operational officer, but rather the actions of leaders and specialists across the organization. Our vision here is 2020: we believe that by 2020, our graduation rate will be 87%, and that 65% of our students will be proficient on the 3-8 examinations. We have already made great strides toward these outcomes!

I also chose the phrase "**BE WELL**", because **WELLNESS** is crucial to improving our culture. The best way to fulfill my role in this expectation, is to ensure that I am well, so that I am able to appropriately respond when conflicts and issues arise. It is here that I challenge each of you to "be well" too, so that you can respond accordingly to the issues and conflicts facing us on a regular basis. I promise to make wellness a focus for MCSD so that all of us can truly be well through appropriate policies, procedures and opportunities.

With all of that said, know this: I do hope that if you have not selected, defined and committed to your three words, please do. I also challenge you to have your kiddos -- your own, your students and/or the youth in our community -- choose their own three words, define them and commit to them as well. It WILL help them complete their goals and act appropriate daily so that they can "get" those goals!

Be Well,

Tammy Mangus