

Details Matter - Sweat The Small Stuff

Sept. 10, 2018

I hope you had a relaxing weekend and you return this week ready to do great work. I love the work we are engaged in, but I also welcome the weekends because it allows me time to relax, reflect and pursue other interests. I hope that you have other things that excite you and keep you balanced. This weekend was a rainy one, and it made me think about the things my mom made us do when we were experiencing rained-out weekends.

My grandmother would make all the children come inside and turn off everything but a battery-operated radio. We would have to unplug the TV, sit down and be quiet. She would say, "The good Lord is working," and our noise and running around in the house was not acceptable. We would sit around the dining table or go into our room and play cards, board games, work on jigsaw puzzles or put together model cars. It was during these times that I developed a love for jigsaw puzzles and model cars.

This weekend, the rain and weather took me back, and I spent the majority of the time working on my new puzzle and listening to the radio. I began to think about our work in Crowley ISD, and I began to see direct connections between the actions necessary to complete the puzzle and the actions necessary to ensure that our students experience high levels of learning.

To complete the puzzle, I first had to make sure I had a clear vision of the end product. I would study the picture and identify the details necessary to put the puzzle together. Second, I had to develop a plan of approach. I could not just grab pieces and put them together. I had to get organized and plan how I would complete the puzzle. In the organization and planning stage, I had to pay attention to the details. The details are really what makes the difference in successfully putting together a puzzle and in success in general.

In the last few weeks, it is clear that all campuses are embracing the idea of becoming game changers and accepting the challenge of making Crowley ISD the top educational choice in Tarrant County. However, **success will only be realized if we consistently pay attention to the details in our daily actions.**

I challenge each of you to adopt the mantra that "Details matter, and in most cases, they make the difference in success and failure." In order for us to deliver the high-quality educational experience our students deserve, we must all "sweat the small stuff."

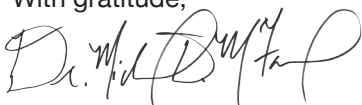
Be intentional in your daily lesson planning and continue to embrace the TODAY model. I have observed many outstanding plans that will lead to engaged learning. In many buildings, it was great to see the hallways decorated with student work and examples of student success. This was not consistent in all buildings, and I could tell immediately where attention to detail was happening. I walked in on several professional learning community meetings and was impressed with the level of focus and intensity on student learning. **When you focus on refining your craft, it is the students who become the benefactors.**



I encourage you to continue to keep the end goal in mind, but pay attention to the details. Make sure that your daily actions are carried out with deliberate intention. Planning is critical and implementation and follow-through is dependent on details.

To complete the puzzle and achieve the success we desire, **remember that details matter, and we must sweat the small stuff.**

With gratitude,



Mike McFarland