

MONDAY MESSAGE

FROM DR. MCFARLAND



It's Gardening Time!

January 22, 2018

One of the things I like to do when I am not working, reading a good book or putting a puzzle together is to grow flowers and vegetables. This weekend, I spent a little time wandering through the garden section at several stores, trying to decide which type of flowers and vegetables I would put into my flower beds and garden.

I like to plant different kinds of flowers and vegetables, so I entered the nurseries looking for a unique plant with just the right kind of flower. As I entered the first garden center, I immediately recognized that the harsh weather from the last week took out many of the flowering plants. The plants left behind looked withered and beyond revitalization. I decided that in order to identify the right plants, I would have to look beyond the flowering plants and find the seed section.



The seed sections had all varieties of flowers and vegetables. The only indication of what the seed would look like in the end was a picture of a blooming flower attached to the bag of seeds.

The seeds come in different shapes and sizes. It would be virtually impossible for me to look at the seed and determine with certainty the type of flower it would produce. That does not change the fact that within the seed is the potential to produce a beautiful flower. Whether a flower evolves from the seed or not depends on the actions that the planter takes and the condition in which the seed is planted.

As I shopped for flowers and seeds, I began to connect my efforts at gardening to the work that all of you do on a daily basis. Our students are like the seeds. They are packed with a bundle of potential. However, whether the potential is ever truly realized will be determined by the daily efforts and actions we take to ensure that the right conditions are in place to cultivate success.

In essence, **we are the planters and our students are the seeds.** Our responsibility is to be intentional about watering the seed, fertilizing the soil and nourishing the plant to ensure that it grows and reaches its full potential. As educators/planters, **we must be committed to creating the conditions for success so that all of our students can achieve at high levels.**

Regardless of what students look like today, and in spite of the real challenges that must be overcome, I am challenging each one of you to look at our students as seed packets of potential and accept the responsibility to ensure that the right conditions are created for their success. I challenge each one of you to cultivate positivity when interacting with our students. Ensure you are prepared and your lessons are engaging. Set high expectations for your students, daily and weekly, and let them know they are full of potential. I truly believe our students can do and become whatever their heart desires if we do everything in our power to ensure the conditions are created that will transform the seed into a flower.

With something to think about, I'm Mike McFarland, telling you that you are the planter, our students are the seed and together we have the opportunity to create a bouquet of success in Crowley ISD. It's gardening time!

Dr. Michael D. McFarland
Superintendent, Crowley ISD