

Superintendent's Update



June 2018



“At the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test, not winning one more verdict or not closing one more deal. You will regret time not spent with a husband, a friend, a child, or a parent.”

That quote is from former First Lady Barbara Bush, who passed away in April. Mrs. Bush spoke those words while delivering the commencement address at Wellesley College on June 1, 1990. I shared this quote with students and their families at one of our district's many student achievement ceremonies this spring. To me, Mrs. Bush's quote is a reminder of two truths: It is important to make every effort to succeed at what we do. It is more important to

build lasting and happy relationships with those we love.

Speaking about success, Mrs. Bush also said: “Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people — your family, friends, and coworkers, and even strangers you meet along the way.”

I truly believe that as a society, we have in some senses lost our way. Our center has been shifted; our overall compassion for our fellow human being has waned. But it does not have to be that way. It does not have to continue. We *all* can change that dialogue. One conversation, one interaction, one situation at a time.

As adults, we often hear concerns about the future of our country, about whether or not this generation will be successful — at least by our definition. As I have witnessed the amazing accomplishments of the Class of 2018, it has reinforced in my mind that we clearly have nothing to worry about. The future is bright. Our graduates can, and will, make a significant difference in our country and our world. Just remember what Mrs. Bush had to say about success.

Toward the end of her commencement address at Wellesley, Mrs. Bush told the graduating class: “You must read to your children and you must hug your children and you must love your children. Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house.”

If that is true—and I firmly believe it is — then it speaks to a high level of family support in the lives of students in the MSD of Wayne Township. As a school district, we owe a great deal of gratitude to our parents for the environment they have created inside their homes. A home that values education sends children out into the world who value it as well.

So my thanks goes out to our parents for many things: for sharing your children with us. For working with our teachers. For supporting our schools and community. For choosing Wayne.

My thanks goes out to our teachers for their tireless dedication to our students. To our administrators and all of our other staff for keeping our buildings running and creating a safe, engaging place for our children to learn. To our school board for guiding us through our challenges. To our community for the countless volunteer hours spent in our classrooms, encouraging and supporting our children.

Please enjoy time spent with family and friends during our summer break. We have all certainly earned it during this highly successful 2017-18 school year. We Are Wayne!

*Dr. Jeffrey K. Butts
Superintendent*