

Superintendent's Monthly Message



Aptakisic-Tripp School District 102
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Dear District 102 Families:

Reflections from 34 years in education.....

After 34 years as an educator at six different school districts, serving as a teacher, Dean of Students, Principal and Superintendent, you would THINK I would have some wisdom to pass along. Actually, what I have are reflections, rich experiences, and fond memories that I will treasure and that will make me smile the rest of my life. I would like to share a few with you.

No matter where I have been, one thing has remained constant. Educators and those in the business of education are some of the finest people on earth. The dedication, commitment, and daily effort put forth by the people that truly influence other people's children continue to amaze me. I have the deepest respect and admiration for the educators who face that challenge each day.

Communities and parents who care about their schools profoundly impact the quality of education produced. Some of you are thinking "well of course," right about now. It seems so obvious, but I continue to be amazed by the number of people who do not participate in their community's educational system. The beauty and success of District 102 is built around the care and concern shown by our community and parents. You have set a high standard and support what you believe.

When I hear that "this generation, these kids are behind, can't compete, are lazy computer freaks", etc., I have to laugh. We have the "cream of the crop" here and I'm excited and optimistic that these students will eventually lead our nation, and we will be in great hands.

People have asked me what I am most proud of. It's truly

the people with whom I have worked. The caring and concern they have for one another is unmatched. Through every crisis and loss that the staff has experienced, they have responded not only professionally, but also with a personal touch that I have never seen before. Great educators, who are also thoughtful and considerate people, are a unique combination.

The last five years have been the best of my career. The opportunities here in District 102 are enormous. That goes for staff, students, and parents. The quality of our district and the districts around the Buffalo Grove area are almost unmatched in the state. I truly appreciate what is here and the opportunity that was given to me. The mark of a good leader is what happens to the organization AFTER he/she leaves. I have complete faith that our new superintendent, Dr. Theresa Dunkin, our new Board of Education, the shifting of the building leaders, and a dedicated PTO will facilitate the district's goal of continuous improvement and make us even stronger. So, with deep gratitude as I "ride off into the sunset," I thank you for making the D-102 experience the pinnacle of my career.

Dr. Jon Mink
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