



SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



September 21, 2020

As many of you know, my wife gave birth this past week to our son, Jonny. He is beautiful and a wonder. I just can't believe that this little miracle was less than an idea just a few short months ago. This boy is our eighth child, so we have some experience. Yet, still, I have been awestruck with the notion that this is all possible. Children are absolutely miraculous.

You each have experienced this as well. You have these amazing children that you love and see through parent eyes. Those eyes never forget what it was like when those children were born or the first time you saw them. You never forget what it was like the first few days of life. You never stop believing that these little children are precious beyond measure and worth every dollar on earth.

With all this in mind, I want to discuss two items. The first is about public health. We value the physical wellbeing of our students above everything else. We want to make sure our school is a safe place to be. With a growing number of students testing positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus, we have evaluated our procedures and believe the tactics we have employed are actually working. We have no evidence to show that a single case was transmitted at school. The staff is so vigilant, and the students are so compliant, and the procedures are so strict, it really is a very safe place to be amid this pandemic. Nonetheless, if cases continue to rise, we will follow the guidelines set forth by the health department. This might lead to the school moving to distance learning for everyone for a two-week period. We are more ready for that than ever before. If it becomes necessary, we will communicate it out and make the transition. Students using Chromebooks and working through CANVAS will make that a fairly simple transition for teachers and students.

The second item is about the two terms: formative and summative. We use those terms in education about assessments a lot. A formative assessment helps the process of teaching and learning to become more effective. It allows teachers to see where students lack understanding so that decisions can be made to alter their instruction and ensure more students learn the necessary material. We call this assessing for learning.

A summative assessment is an evaluation of what a student knows and how much they have gained. It is a final determination of the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process. We call this assessment of learning. Summative assessments have lasting impacts as they determine or define end results.

Too often, and now more than ever, we make high school about summative results instead of formative experiences. These years allow our children to have experiences and growth opportunities when the summative consequences can be small and the formative impacts can be great if we allow students to learn from the experience. This means, students do not have to

be perfect all the time. They can learn a lot from struggling and overcoming those struggles. It is the formative struggle that can have the lasting impact.

Thanks for trusting us with your amazing, miraculous children. They are little wonders that are quickly becoming the realization of all your hopes and dreams. My greatest desire is that we can help each one of your students believe they are a wondrous miracle and have the potential to accomplish greatness and become whatever they desire.

Mitch