

Be Greater than the Average

Tammy Mangus, Superintendent of Schools



@TammyMangus

Dear Member of the Monticello Community,

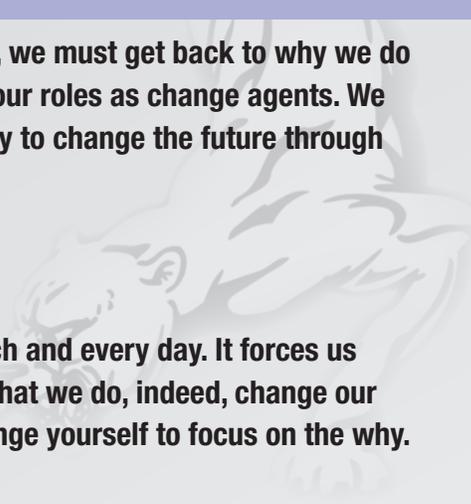
Welcome to another school year. It is hard to believe that it is already time to welcome everyone back. This summer has certainly moved forward at lightning speed. We have been blessed here in Sullivan County with temperate weather and some stellar sunrises. This friendly weather has provided our Facilities Team with many great days to complete the hard work of getting our buildings ready for everyone's return as well as allowing them to complete some complicated projects, including the foundation overhaul at KLR, the digging and refacing of the high school to troubleshoot the moisture issues in the PPS area and continuing forward with our safety and infrastructure projects.

The sunny days of summer saw our transportation department safely delivering our kiddos each day to our Summer Learning Academy at our elementary and secondary schools. Chef Andy and his team fed them well, in addition to offering meals at our summer feeding sites. Several of our instructional teammates spent their days teaching our children in those Learning Academy classes or learning themselves in varied professional development opportunities and college classes. These teams took advantage of the beauty of each summer day to make sure that MCSD shines physically, academically and characteristically. I do hope that you were able to take advantage of the beauty found in each day too.

In search of continued greatness for MCSD, I have spent every leisurely moment studying great leadership through historical texts. I am in awe of the amazing individuals who have served to shape our nation and our world. The binding thread of exponential excellence and inspired organizational growth across each and every text is captured by just one small portion of a speech called The Man in the Arena given by Teddy Roosevelt at the Sorbonne in 1910:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

(Roosevelt)



This year, as we seek to create successful citizens and strong learners, we must get back to why we do what we do as opposed to focusing on the what. We must understand our roles as change agents. We are blessed to serve the greater good. We are blessed to have the ability to change the future through the work we do with our children.

This is the why.

It should encompass everything we do. It should define our actions each and every day. It forces us to challenge old ways of thinking and old practices in order to ensure that we do, indeed, change our society's future through our children. This year dare greatly and challenge yourself to focus on the why. It will, without question, lead to heightened happiness and success.

Be well,

**Tammy Mangus
Superintendent of Schools**