

A View from the Principal's Office

November 23, 2020

Good afternoon, I hope that you are all well. I want to share some observations as we approach our Thanksgiving break. Over the next week or so, all of us are going to spend a little time mourning the loss of family time and traditions; this is a normal reaction to our situation. I hope to keep these times short and infrequent. Yes, I will miss my children and grandson's presence at the table and the energy in our house that results. I am sure that there will be long moments of silence that are unfamiliar during the Thanksgiving holiday. Frankly, these sacrifices are simple to make and we must all make them. Perhaps the tradition that I will miss the most is our school's annual "Breakfast for All" advisory activity during which every member of our community prepares and shares breakfast throughout the school; I look forward to resuming this.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, the pandemic, I find myself more often searching for things for which I am grateful. I do not need to look any further than our hallways. Our students are amazing and I am thankful for them every day. I am more convinced than ever that we need to take our lead from our children. I have always had a strong belief in the capacity of children – during my 35+ years at Hartford I have seen time and time again that our young people have the answer to the questions that adults and society struggle with. I spent most of the summer listening to adults' questions about how the students will ever deal with masks. How will you keep them apart? My response, often met with cynicism, was that I trust our students. For every question like, what are you going to do with all the students who will not wear their mask? I responded that we would have a plan for that but that I was not concerned, because I trust and believe in kids. On this Thanksgiving, I am thankful for our young people.

Our learners are amazing, there is a great deal of evidence in our school to support that remote learning is hard, but while our students may be struggling to learn, they are not struggling to do what they know we all need each other to do. Our students are taking care of themselves and each other. They get it. Believe in our young people, allow them to inspire us, follow their lead.

Truthfully, our kids are losing much more than I am. Our students' lives have been more disrupted than mine has. Despite this, they have taken our directions regarding masks, distance, and hand cleaning with grace and commitment. We should all act so.

I hope that you and your family, wherever they may be, are well. That you take a moment to share this message with your child. I am so proud of our students, for them I am truly thankful.

Thanks for reading. Happy Thanksgiving,

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