

Welcome to October and Homecoming Week!!

We are one month into our school year. As part of our series this year, next month we will be highlighting our new belief statement and values in our Strategic Plan. The Board of Directors will consider adoption at the end of this month.

Our mission is proposed as “Together we commit to inspiring lifelong learners to create a better future. And our vision is “Our vision is for all students to graduate with the knowledge and skills to succeed in our community and the global society. We must inspire, allow innovation, create safe and strong academic opportunities to allow all students to realize success and thrive in the 21st Century workplace.

For our district, this has been a time of creativity and beginnings. Research states that there are various needs for Creativity to occur. As stated by Antonio Damasio, a neuroscience professor at the University of Southern California, “We say that when people are inspired, they create, that it all comes in a rush, but of course it comes in a rush if you’ve trained your hands and your mind for an entire lifetime. That moment of inspiration generally comes on the back of a whole process of imagination and knowledge and criticism of what has come before.” Eatonville schools are places that all children are known; we are small and personalization is a cornerstone of how we function. This is evident in the hallways, fields and classrooms. This ability for us to know our students must not be underestimated. This is our strength and our opportunity.

Further research states that America has been a leader in Creativity since our inception. “American ingenuity” is admired everywhere. We are the great innovators, specialists in figuring out new ways of doing things and new things to do. Perhaps this derives from our frontier beginnings, or from our unique form of democracy with its emphasis on individual freedom and respect for nonconformity. In the 21st century business world as well as in academia and the arts and elsewhere, creativity is our number one asset. In a recent IBM poll, 1,500 CEOs acknowledged this when they identified creativity as the best predictor of future success.

Creativity is nurtured by freedom and options to problem solve. In the real world few questions have one right answer; few problems have one right solution; that's why creativity is crucial to success in the real world. We have challenged in our curriculum that there is not one right answer to every question and we encourage that there is not one correct solution to every problem, a system that punishes children for daring to try different routes. This is evident in our mathematics and language arts, literacy curriculum, as well as all other classes that encourage the use of multiple perspectives and ingenuity such as robotics, Digi tool, drama, and AVID. Our after school opportunities are targeted for extra time to learn required skills and/or time to learn new skills such as coding, robotics, knitting and STEM activities. This is new for us to provide these options for students and without your support and flexibility as we design new options, we would not be able to create a better system.

This is half of the challenge of school districts in the public sector across the nation. We have the very best teachers and it is evident in the classrooms. We have the very best support staff in the lunchroom, on busses, and in the schools. Every place I visit, there are caring, positive people serving as role models in their capacity for children.

We value the innovative ways you include in your daily work. Thank you for allowing your imagination to include allowing students to create new ways, to invent and explain their thinking, to explore.

November 5 is Eatonville School District's Focus on Education Day. The focus for this year is on secondary STEM programs in the middle and high school with a culminating lunch for our public. Thank you to all who are participating.

As part of this commitment for students we will be supporting an event entitled "Invention Convention 2015" in January. This district wide event will support the President of the United States Proclamation from June 2014 that stated "Today, let us continue on the path of discovery, experimentation, and innovation that has been the hallmark of not only human progress, but of the Nation's progress. Together, let us unleash the imagination of our people to affirm that we are a Nation of makers, and to ensure that the next great technological revolution happens right here in America".

As part of our commitment To The Top (T3) we will host the first annual Invention Convention where all students will be able to invent, concoct, design and discover new ways of solving problems, inventing new ways or devices, and share their learnings. Because science, technology, engineering and mathematics are essential to invention we will be so excited to see what they may discover.

You will hear more of this event, but know that we are eager and proud of the work that is inherent in the schools of Eatonville.

Enjoy the season of Homecoming and Go Cruisers!!

Eatonville schools: A place to imagine and dream! Thank you for the possibilities!

Sincerely,

Krestin Bahr

Krestin Bahr, Superintendent