



No one, alive or dead, could have done it any better

January 19, 2021

Every January, we pause to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin L. King Jr. There are celebrations that occur all over our country in an attempt to honor his life and his legacy. From parades to programs to pulpits throughout the land, you can hear Dr. King's name and his words repeated over and over again. While quoting, and misquoting him, has become a popular pastime in our society, finding people who are truly living according to the principles he advocated has been much more difficult.

Many of the ideas Dr. King presented to society at the time were aspirational in nature. He shared his dreams, his hopes and he challenged the country and its leadership to live up to the principles of justice, freedom and compassion. With his speeches and actions, he attempted to appeal to the common decency that he assumed was present in all human beings. He was a mortal man who called us as a country to become a better version of ourselves.

In many circles, he is seen as some unique, special, gifted and talented icon to be worshipped. But through my personal studies, I have discovered that Dr. King was a normal, imperfect human being, like you and me. He had an unyielding belief in people and an awesome sense of obligation and responsibility to make this world better. He had a calling on his life and he remained focused on his mission. But it was his actions, in alignment with his calling and his mission, that impacted the world in such a significant way that we all stop, study and lift up his words and use them as a guide as we continue to do our part to make this a better world.

As I reflect on the work that we are engaged in here in Crowley, I recognize that we must approach it as Dr. King approached his life's work. I challenge each of you to be reminded that in order to carry out our mission of improving the lives of our students in the midst of all the uncertainty, turmoil, and negativity, we must remain committed to excellence even in the face of adversity.

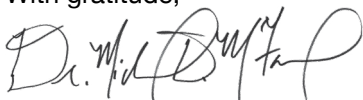
Dr. King's life provides a blueprint for us all. I encourage you to take a few minutes to listen to his words in his speech entitled, "[What is Your Life's Blueprint?](#)" I believe now is a great time for each one of us to hit pause and reflect on this most important question... What is your life's blueprint?

I would love to read your reflections on this question, and I will definitely share mine directly with those who are interested. What I realize, now more than ever, is that we must make a deliberate decision to become who we are called to be, and then focus on the opportunity we have been given to make a difference. **As educators, we have the power daily to speak life, share hope and build up the students we serve, but we must do it with intention.** I am challenging each one of you to ensure that excellence is a part of your life's blueprint and recognize that our aspiration as a district is to be excellent and to be the best there is at educating the students we serve. We can only achieve that mission if each individual takes personal responsibility to be excellent in your daily effort.

In his Blueprint speech, Dr. King metaphorically shares a story about a street sweeper who had a commitment to excellence. He wanted to do his job so well that people from all over would say "Here lived a street sweeper that did his job so well, that no one, alive or dead, could have ever done it any better." It is that mark and that mindset of excellence that is needed from each of you in order for us to become the top in Tarrant County.

As Dr. King shared, I am challenging each of you to strive to be the absolute best that ever lived in carrying out the responsibility that you have today. So that people will say that "Here lived an educator, an administrator, a teacher, an aide, a nurse, a secretary, a custodian, a counselor, a bus driver, a board member, a parent, a citizen, a person that did his or her job so well that no one, alive or dead, could have done it any better."

With gratitude,



Michael D. McFarland, Ed.D.
Crowley ISD Superintendent of Schools

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