



## The Orchard Is In The Seed

Sept. 24, 2018

Growing up, my brother and I would visit my uncle's farm in the small community of Broaddus during the fall and help plant fruit trees. We loved it because this was the only time our parents let us miss school for two days to help. The two days of work would earn us enough money to go to Beaumont for the fair and play all the carnival games we wanted.

When I visited Broaddus last summer, I was excited to see the peach trees we planted 30 years ago are still bearing fruit. The land is no longer being farmed, but the trees are still bearing fruit. We created the right conditions within the soil to create sustainable success, and I believe we are doing the same here in Crowley ISD.

This weekend, I bought a bag of fruit tree seeds and seedlings with the intention of planting them in my backyard in the next couple of weeks. When I returned home, I immediately started to prepare the seeds and soil for growth. Each seed and seedling had the potential to produce delicious fruit and bountiful orchards, but before that could occur, intentional actions had to be taken. The soil had to be cultivated, and the right conditions for success had to be established. In their current state, the seeds were dormant and would remain that way until placed in conditions conducive for growth.

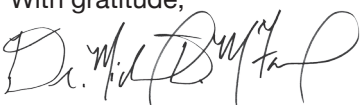
The more I considered the dormant seeds, the more I began to think about the students we serve. Our students are like the dormant seeds. They have great potential and will realize their potential when we take the necessary steps to create the optimum conditions for learning and growing to occur. Our mission in Crowley ISD is to ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

In order to deliver on our mission, it is critical we operate with intention. Success is never an accident, but the result of discipline, diligence and attention to detail. It is imperative that high-quality lessons are designed to ensure students are engaged in content that is relevant. Engaging in collaborative professional learning sessions and providing differentiated instruction is essential to ensuring that all students receive what is needed.

As we begin to accelerate the implementation of new systems, some of the things we are asking you to do may seem overwhelming and unnecessary; however, the path we are pursuing is one that, when implemented fully, will change the reality of the students we serve and the trajectory of our district.

I am excited about where we are and hope that you are as well. We are in the planting season. We possess the seeds. Whether they grow to their full potential will depend on the conditions we create. All of the seeds we have in our care today have the opportunity to produce an orchard, but only if they are planted in the right conditions.

With gratitude,



Mike McFarland