

February Staff Dev. Newsletter

A newsletter for the staff by Dr. Dominy

Love All Of It!

Greetings Seward Staff! As the month of February rolls around, I am reminded of a passage by Jon Gordon titled, love all of it. I wanted to use a little space here today to share this passage with you as we are deep into the school year and may be experiencing a mix of emotions.

"Today I want to encourage you to do the same and build your life, work, business, school, project and team with love instead of fear. Remind yourself that if you aren't building it with love it won't become all that it can be. Only through love will you create something special, magnificent and compelling. Only through love will you build a masterpiece.

So if you are trying to build a business focus on the love you have of building it rather than the fear of losing it. If you work at a school focus on loving your students instead of fearing all the new testing standards. If you are a young athlete, dancer, musician or artist, focus on your love of playing and performing instead of your fear of failing. Worrying about the outcome and what people think will steal your joy and sabotage your success but loving and appreciating the moment will energize you and enhance your performance.

And if you are a coach or manager building a team, remember that whatever you try to build with fear will eventually crumble. But that which is built with love will endure. If you build your team with love they will become more and do more than you ever thought possible.

Most of all, as you build with love, know that you will face many challenges and negative forces that can shift your focus back to fear if you let it. When this happens decide to LOVE ALL OF IT. When you love all of it you will fear none of it." - Jon Gordon

Love the struggle because it makes you appreciate your accomplishments.

Love challenges because they make you stronger.

Love competition because it makes you better

Love negative people because they make you more positive.

Love those who have hurt you because they teach you forgiveness.

Love fear because it makes you courageous.

The secret to life and the greatest success strategy of all is to *love all of it* and fear none of it.

== LOVE ALL OF IT! ==

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From our All Learning is Social and Emotional book.

Public Spirit- Public Spirit is the way that people contribute to and steward their communities.

This is demonstrated by:

- *Respecting others
- *Being courageous and understanding ethical and civic responsibility
- *Improving life through social justice work
- *Service learning and leadership

In my mind, public spirit is belonging and contributing to something bigger than you. It is also teaching students how to interact with people from all backgrounds and to see the world beyond what is two feet in front of our face. Public Spirit can be taught through the characters we read about in English class, or the historical figures we discuss in social studies in addition to ideas from every curricular area. We can provide service-learning opportunities in any of our classrooms, clubs, and athletics. Our role is to help students participate in the decision-making process and learn to advocate for what they believe as they also learn to respect the rights of others.

Connection to our Instructional and Evaluation Model

Public Spirit is addressed in several of our indicators of our teacher evaluation model. The strongest connections come from the following indicators:

3.2 Engagement

3.3 Rules and Procedures

3.4 Relationships

If we as educators are focused on these areas we are helping students navigate the world ahead of them and how to interact in any situation. We are one of their first models of public spirit and it is our role to live out what we want to see in our students.

The element in the instructional model that best aligns with Public Spirit, in my mind, is #29 using friendly controversy. If we can teach students to interact civilly, to listen to what the other person has to say, and defend their opinion with evidence, we will certainly be preparing our students for a lifetime of success.

Google Arts and Culture

One of the most fascinating sites created by Google is their Arts and Culture site:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/>

This site will allow teachers/students to explore priceless art, Ann Frank's Childhood home, and the international space station just to name a few of the amazing things you can do. Younger students may need to have you select what they view as some pieces of art, etc. may be for older students only. If you get a chance, check out the site and think about connections to your curriculum.

