

February Staff Development News

A newsletter for the Seward Staff by Dr. Dominy

A note from Matt

The picture in the background of this newsletter was the stock image that came up when I started my newsletter. I was just starting to go to the editing section where I could change the picture to something more "educational" when I paused and really looked at the picture... I think there is a message for all of us in this picture and I think if I asked each of you to reflect on it, we may get 222 different responses!

When I looked at the picture I saw all of the action of the city, the overwhelming landscape of buildings, windows, homes, cars, and lights- all of the action! The picture caused me to experience some anxiety and a feeling of being overwhelmed and then I looked at the mountain top and reflected on the peace and calm that mountain must bring.

In education today, we have many distractions in the news, in the legislature, on social media, etc. It can be overwhelming, it can certainly raise our anxiety and worry. In my opinion, we need to keep our eyes on what matters- our students. We need to ensure that they are ready for the next grade, course, level, and life- academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. We will do our best as leaders in our district to ensure that you can focus on quality teaching and quality relationships. We are thankful for each of you and all that you bring to our students.

Thank you

Matt

Cracks in the Foundation- Jon Gordon

Cracks in the Foundation

It rained a lot the other day and unfortunately we found a leak in our place. We never knew it was there because it never rained that much.

When the sun is shining and the weather is great you don't realize there are holes that make leaks possible. But when the storms come and the rain pours down, it reveals the cracks and holes you have.

You know where I'm going with this. When life is good and everything is going great, you don't think you have any issues.

But when adversity strikes and the storms of life come your way it reveals the cracks in your foundation you didn't know were there.

These moments can cause you to question who you are, what you are made of and whether you were as strong as you thought. Challenges often reveal the cracks in your identity, character and confidence. They expose the wounds you carry and holes in your soul.

During these times you can allow the revelation of these cracks to break you or cause you to seek ways to break through.

You can believe storms are happening to you or for you.

You can allow adversity to weaken you and crush your identity or find ways to, reinforce your core and become even stronger.

Finding holes may be difficult, inconvenient and cause a lot of temporary pain and frustration but they are also great opportunities to fix what is broken, heal the wounds, fill the holes and become whole.

-Jon

February Staff Development Day

We will certainly have a variety of offerings for our Feb. 20th staff development day. All ELA teachers K-12 will hear presentations from reading program vendors throughout the day. CPR training will be available for select staff who will be notified they need to attend the training. We will have three sessions scheduled in each building- Action plan time, Remote Learning work time, and Technology "Choose your session". Lastly, we will end our day with a District Wellness Committee Meeting.

Reading Research- Background Knowledge -Anita Archer

This is a presentation from Anita Archer regarding building background for deeper reading comprehension. The video is over an hour long, but for those of you who know Anita Archer, she always has important things to share regarding instruction. If you get a chance to watch a few snippets, you will appreciate a number of her points.

Anita Archer - Background Knowledge: Key to Learning & Reading Comprehension



Reach & Teach ALL Students



April 27, 2022

Conference Topic: Effective Reading Instructional Practices

Session Topic: Background Knowledge: Key to Learning and Reading Comprehension

Presenter: Anita L. Archer, PhD.
Author, Consultant, Teacher

Patriotic Holidays

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-724 requires the following:

Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public, private, denominational, and parochial school on **George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday**, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session.

George Washington's Birthday- February 22nd

Abraham Lincoln's Birthday- February 12th

President's Day Observed- February 20th