

**November 10, 2014**

I am continuously impressed with the effects that success has on our outlook. Last week while the weather was gloomy and thoughts of our community's [bonfire](#) and homecoming [parade](#) were in question, I noticed some signs of frustration and at times, panic. Yet, I was impressed with how our students pressed forward and continued to [build their bonfire](#) and make plans for their [activities](#). They came together and quickly devised a plan that ensured the festivities would continue. Thanks to them, their leadership, and their sponsors, we had a [great bonfire](#), a [wonderful](#) parade, and let's not forget about the wonderful overtime victory against our rivals to the south. Very nice....

The example provided above is not exclusive to students' success. The same can be said about the success our teachers have in the classroom, or that any of us experience on a daily basis - winning takes care of most problems. Yet winning takes preparation. For example, if we want our students to win in math, then we are faced with preparing for new TEKS. This past Wednesday, our 3rd - 5th grade math [teachers](#) spent a full day working with the new math TEKS. Teachers participated in the first part of a two part training titled, "Applying Rigor to the New Math TEKS." Teachers collaborated with one another and worked to breakdown standards. They discussed and developed multiple ways to teach each TEK to ensure student success. Because the new math TEKS will be assessed in this year's STAAR assessment, it is a priority that teachers become familiar with the content to develop specific ways to teach along with preparing formative assessments to check for student understanding.

Step 5 of The Planning Protocol is a step we continuously work to make improvements on - Differentiation. GT [training](#) was conducted this past Wednesday. This training is ongoing and takes place every year for any new teacher that teaches advanced classes and any new kindergarten teacher. Through the means of continuous staff development, I am certain teachers will feel better about planning lessons to differentiate for all learners. The training they receive will hopefully be taken back to Planning Protocol and shared with their cluster of teachers.

Speaking of winning, this past week was absolutely incredible. As I drove around town I saw many signs of Homecoming excitement. Beginning at SFMMS, I happened to come across their own Homecoming Court. It was nice to see [Taylor](#) and her entire court proudly display their school pride. As I drove past the high school, I noticed students working hard to [build their bonfire](#). Although there was some worry about rain, all the worry about [Friday's festivities](#) (Football [game](#) and Home Coming [Court](#) Coronation) being rained out, quickly subsided as the game created tremendous excitement. [Steven](#) - #12 quickly connected with [Gaston](#) - #88 in the end zone for the first seven points, and [Webb](#) - #2 added another 7 points late in the second half to give us an opportunity for overtime play. Thanks to [Tyler's](#) - #9 precise kicking skills, overtime only lasted a couple of minutes - he kicked a field goal to secure an overtime victory and send our Rams to the playoffs. Everyone was incredibly excited. However, I doubt anyone was more excited than our own [Head Football Coach](#).

This was probably one of the most exciting Homecoming events we have witnessed in a long time. I bet Mitchell, Giselle, Rick, Camila, Carlos, and Larissa will long remember their participation in the [homecoming court](#). No rain, a victory to send us to the [playoffs](#), and the glamour of the [Royal Court](#). It doesn't get any better than this.

As soon as the game ended, I headed towards Austin, TX, - seven of our Cross Country Boys and [Diamond](#) participated this past weekend at the State Meet. Even though I hated to miss the [parade](#) and bonfire, I was sure that something [awesome](#) was about to occur at the State Cross Country Meet. Coach Rick Smith had been telling me all season long that [Paul](#) had a sure chance of being a top 10 runner at the State Meet. Sure enough, Paul had the eighth fastest time at the State Meet this year - something no Del Rioan had previously accomplished. As impressive as it was to see him give it his all as he approached the finish line, it was equally impressive to see our entire team ([Max](#), [Jesse](#), [Sergio](#), [Jason](#), [Damien](#), & [Jerry](#)) represent our community.

As always, it is quite rewarding to see our kids celebrate with their [friends](#), [administrators](#), [coaches](#), [family](#), and [each other](#). I also want to take this opportunity to give our local sports writer, [Chris](#), a huge thank you for traveling to Austin and everywhere our kids participate. I don't know that I have seen this much personal attention to our Sports program since I was a middle school student reading articles written by the awesome Carl Guys. Stick around for a lifetime Chris and we may name something after you. Great job!

In closing this blog, I want to thank our Board and our community for entrusting me with the leadership of this District. This is, by far, the most meaningful work we can engage in. Being entrusted with the academic success of our students is a priority I believe whole heartedly in. I ask that each and every one of you are mindful of this daily. Although this job at times feels lonely, there is no way that any of the hard work and dedication can ever account for one person's doing. So long as we are all willing to work in collaboration with each other's expertise and strive continuously to be the best solution to each child's need, we have the potential to truly become great. I believe in you, and I thank each of you who believe in me.

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. - Martin Luther King, Jr.*