



November 2020

“When we
have
each other,
we have
everything”



“I’d Rather See You Grading Papers”

I recently read an educational blog. It had 5 inspirational stories about education linked to the bottom of it. One of the stories was titled “I’d Rather See You Grading Papers.” The story is about a man who went from being the janitor at a school to becoming the school’s principal in nearby Louisiana. It’s a truly touching story. It’s a testament to the perseverance of Joseph Sonnier and a greater testament to principal Mr. Wesley Jones who gave his former student a job when he was in a time of need.

The story is about how Mr. Jones continued to motivate, instill confidence, and believe in Joseph over time. Mr. Wesley hired Mr. Sonnier as a custodian at an elementary school where he was principal at the time. Mr. Jones one day through interaction with Joseph said to him, “I taught you, and I know of your potential. I would rather see you grading papers than picking them up.” Joseph recalled that no one had ever believed in him as much as his former teacher now turned principal Mr. Jones. Those words plus a few more inspirational words stayed with Joseph just as many other inspirational and positive things Mr. Jones and other teachers had spoken to Joseph as a student in school.

Joseph said he took those words to heart and begin to craft a plan to make the belief that Mr. Jones and so many others had in him become his reality. With the help of Mr. Jones and the Superintendent of schools who also happened to be one of Joseph’s former teachers, Joseph was able to adjust his work schedule so he could return to school and seek a teaching degree. He successfully completed his degree and earned a teaching position. He later went on to earn his master’s degree in 2003. After teaching for several years he eventually interviewed for the position of principal at St. Barre Elementary, the very school he began working at as a custodian in 1985. He received the position and began the mission of instilling belief in others just as Mr. Jones did in him thus paying it forward and positively impacting the lives of others.

Belief, Motivation, Inspiration, and Dedication always have and continue to go a long way in shaping the lives of the students that we educators come into contact with on a daily basis. Educators should look for and see the potential in the students we serve on a daily basis. Not all students have internal drive or confidence within them. As educators it’s our responsibility to cultivate and help our students develop a drive and a sense of purpose. We should do it for all of our students. Make it a personal mission to equip them with the skills they don’t have.

I hope this story motivates you. I also hope that you will not allow any of your students to settle for less than their best therefore not maximizing their full potential. Take the time to speak some words of encouragement to our students each day. Let them know you believe in them and you see their potential. Tell them you’re dedicated to them and that if they need you, you will be by their side encouraging, and guiding them along the way as they reach their potential. Ensure they know that you are not only dedicated to them as a student in your class, but also in the years after they have long left your class, graduated high school, completed college, and began their chosen career paths. I am sure they would appreciate knowing they have someone like you in their corner for the long run.

In closing, during the holiday season, you will hear of stories such as this and many others. They will move you to take action as they should. I want you to know that I am aware that many of you have done this and more for the students who have come through the doors of Wharton ISD in the past. I urge you to continue to do this and more. #TogetherWeWill, #Family, #TigerPride

Superintendent Coin of Excellence



Donna Jackson



Carlton Scott

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*Happy
Thanksgiving
to you and
your family!*



Fundamental 5 Monthly Spotlight~Sivells Elementary

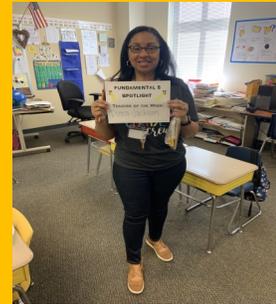
This month's Fundamental 5 Spotlight Teacher for Sivells is Diane Kalina! Ms. Kalina was selected by the campus administrative team based on her ability to be an excellent role model to her 1st grade team by her amazing 1st grade lessons. She encourages her students to be successful by infusing instruction with the daily implementation of compassion and dedication to her students. Ms. Kalina graduated from Sam Houston State University with a major in Education. This will be her 49th year teaching. On her free time she loves to get on the gator and go check the cattle, mow the yard, and best of all spend time with her grandchildren. Ms. Kalina loves her family very much. She and her husband, Larry, have one son, Clint, a daughter in law, Heather, and 3 beautiful grandchildren. A saying that Ms. Kalina loves is, "It's not what you do but it's how you do it." Sivells Elementary and Wharton ISD are glad to have Ms. Kalina on the Tiger Team!



Diane Kalina

Fundamental 5 Monthly Spotlight~Wharton Elementary

This month's Fundamental 5 Spotlight Teacher for WES is Donna Jackson. Ms. Jackson has been in Wharton ISD for 20 years and has taught second and third graders for 17 years. She thoroughly enjoys working with her students and in her spare time she enjoys reading. She was chosen as the spotlight teacher of the week because of her implementation of Fundamental 5 and Playbook strategies. Ms. Jackson works hard to ensure her students stay engaged and allows multiple opportunities for students to "turn and talk" and share their thinking with their peers. Way to go Ms. Jackson!



Donna Jackson

Fundamental 5 Monthly Spotlight~Wharton Junior High

This month's Fundamental 5 Spotlight Teacher for WJH is Caleb Korenek. This is Mr. Korenek's first year teaching and WJH is very proud to have him. He has shown a true dedication to setting high expectations for his band students. Mr. Korenek is very skilled at offering support and guidance to the students as they work toward achieving their goals. In addition, he has done a phenomenal job framing the lessons out so the students have a clear vision of what they are learning and why they are learning it. Mr. Korenek has worked hard to implement the Fundamental 5 strategies while assisting his students become successful playing their instruments. Mr. Korenek continually provides reinforcement and support to the students when they need it. WJH and Wharton ISD are extremely happy to have Mr. Korenek as part of the Tiger family.



Caleb Korenek

Fundamental 5 Monthly Spotlight~Wharton High School

This month's Fundamental 5 Spotlight Teacher for WHS is Crystal Burditt. Ms. Burditt is in her 21st year as a teacher. She transitioned from being a superb Art teacher to becoming a dynamic English teacher approximately 3 years ago. Since then she has become the English Department Chair. Ms. Burditt is being recognized for her great work inside of her English classrooms. Ms. Burditt is an extremely organized educator and with that, she effectively plans opportunities for her students to communicate with their elbow partners. One of the key components to Ms. Burditt's classes is that her students are always communicating which is an awesome recipe for academic success. Thank you Ms. Burditt for your time and effort you put into your craft. We are so fortunate to have Ms. Burditt at Wharton ISD. Great job Ms. Burditt!



Crystal
Burditt

"The road to success is always under construction."

~Unknown~

Human Resources

Wharton ISD teachers and staff are the ultimate recruiters! Human Resources goal is to create a supportive environment that encourages our current staff to identify and refer exceptional people for vacant positions. We value and appreciate our employees and understand the potential they possess for as powerful recruiters. What better spokespeople do we have than our employees to consistently share our successes and our brand! We want to hire the best in the business, and we can expand our reach when our dedicated employees assist.



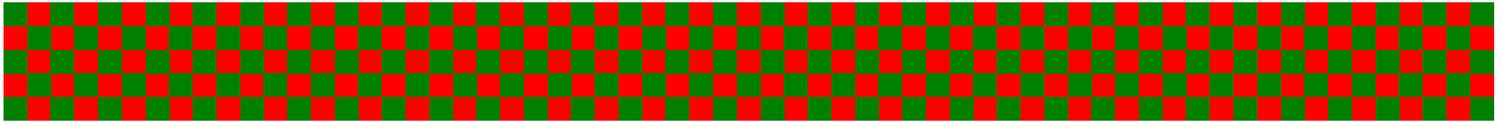
Literacy at Wharton ISD

The new WISD literacy team is off to a great start. We had 46 nominees attend our Fall Into Literacy kick-off event on October 26th. The nominees are WISD teachers, administrators, students, and community members. The purpose of the literacy team is to develop and support the implementation of a district-wide k-12 literacy plan. The team and plan will support the implementation of the new systems and initiatives, provide stakeholder feedback and advisory support. Our goal is to instill a love of reading and writing for all of our students and ensure they have the best chance to achieve their individual goals and dreams. At our Fall Into a Good Book event on November 10th, students had a story read to them by Swatson, the Sugar Land Skeeters mascot while they enjoyed a snack. Each child that attended received a free book. Our literacy team met on November 16th and developed the literacy team's mission, vision, and goals. If you have any questions or want to know how you can support our literacy team, please reach out to our Director of Teaching and Learning, Dr. Amy Blakey, at ablakey@whartonisd.net.



Thankful
Grateful
Blessed

Preparing Today
For A
Competitive
Tomorrow



December

Month at a Glance

December 15th-18th ~ Student Early Release

December 18th ~ Last Day of Nine Weeks

December 21st-January 1st ~ Holidays

Happy Holidays!

