

Our Path to First Choice No.38
2018/19

Everyone,

This will be the last Path Note for this school year. With a busy week, and Celebration Day filling out a lot of our time, this is the final edition for 2018/19. Here's Path Note No. 38.

Our Path Topic

First of all, thank you for a great school year. Lots of downs, but lots of ups. Lots of failures or missed opportunities, but lots of gains and achievements. The 2018/19 school year, nonetheless, has seen growth and development toward *First Choice*. During Celebration Day we will learn more about *First Choice*...hopefully, more than we know now.

First Choice is developing a school system and an educational opportunity that meets the student where he or she is at as a learner. It is customizing, personalizing and individualizing. Yes, it is about the student's First Choice of what they want to do in life upon graduation. In addition, yes, perhaps that student doesn't know what he/she wants to do in life. That's okay, because this generation of students will likely change jobs and careers quite often throughout life. Nevertheless, we must provide opportunities to explore various careers a student may pursue. We can provide guidance to areas of strength and interest to students. If a student is four-foot ten inches tall, and wants to be an NBA player, we can help them pursue his/her dream and provide other opportunities for the student to take advantage of strengths and weaknesses.

Students who come to us with strong personal skills and ready to learn, we need to customize learning and individualize their path to a career. However, students that come to us with more challenging backgrounds and less ready to learn, we need to personalize their education by focusing on those skills that will help them with building a career path and acquire the academic skills needed to reach his/her *First Choice*.

On Wednesday, May 29th, during the Celebration Day meeting, you will learn more about First Choice, and what we have and have not achieved in that area. *First Choice* is a simple concept focused on the end product. It is built on three pillars that are needed for a student to reach his/her *First Choice*.

Over the next year, you will understand it more, and see the progress toward its development. Organizational change can take years, so we cannot expect to be where we want now. As a dynamic process and vision, it could shape and develop the WASD for many years.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meetings
 - May 28th at 7PM is the next Regular Board Meeting.
 - June 3rd at 1 PM is the next Policy Committee Meeting.

You may check out District policies by going to this site:
<https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

A Challenge for You

Why do students and teachers have off during the summer?

Piece of the Puzzle

Nominated for Piece of the Puzzle this week are Matt Brown, Chad Atkinson, and Christel Ruzicka for their dedication and hard work with the GED program. Their investment in the program is apparent, as they are connecting with their students. Thanks for helping the GED (General Education Diploma) students obtain and celebrate the accomplishment of a WASD diploma. If you see these folks today, congratulate them for being a Piece of the Puzzle!

*Challenge Answer (Important to Know)

Yes, there is some evidence that schools were operating on an agrarian calendar, and students had to work on the farm. However, most of the work was during the harvest season in the fall. History also has shown that many of the rich in the northeast took their children out of school to escape the hot summers in the city for the cool mountains and countryside—the pre-Air Conditioning days!!

Final Thoughts

- *If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.*—Ignacio Estrada
- *No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.*—Dr. James Comer
- *The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The great teacher inspires.*—William Arthur Ward.
- *The secret to education lies in respecting the student.*—Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *All students can learn and succeed, but not on the same day in the same way.*—William G. Spady
- *Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.*—Albert Einstein
- *Education doesn't need to be reformed—it needs to be transformed. The key is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.*—Ken Robinson
- *Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.*—John Dewey
- *Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.*—Margaret Mead
- *An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.*—Benjamin Franklin

Enjoy the rest of your week!

Tod