

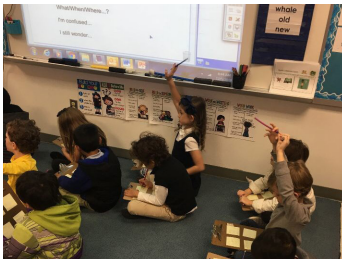
*Restorative Practices training at H.F. Stevens on a Saturday*



*All Pro Dads breakfast at Summer Creek*



*Meadowcreek's team of students at the Crowley ISD Battle of the Books*



*First-grade students at Deer Creek thinking and identifying text-related questions*

## A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

*Dec. 10, 2018*

As I completed my Christmas decoration duties this weekend, I came across a box of my Grandma's old photo albums, and I stopped for a second and started flipping through the pictures. Grandma had these picture books in her front room, and as children, we were only allowed into the front room on special occasions. The picture books sat under the glass coffee tables, and they chronicled the history of my family.

Every so often, Grandma would let us go in the living room and look at the pictures. It was through these pictures that I developed an understanding and an appreciation of family. I never had an opportunity to meet many of the people in the pictures, but as I looked into their eyes, I saw myself. There were pictures of family reunions, Christmas celebrations, Thanksgiving dinners, Easter plays, newborn babies, graduations and the pictures of my uncles as they entered the military. **It is amazing how pictures have a way of telling a story that words simply can't convey.** A picture really is worth a thousand words.

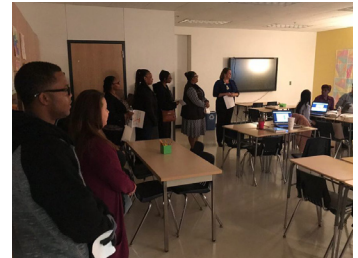
As I sat down to compose this week's message, I thought about the power of pictures and decided this week I would share with you, in pictures, what I have seen over the last couple weeks in Crowley ISD. Our principals regularly share the work from their campus on our internal GroupMe system, and the work that is occurring in our district is both impressive and encouraging. See for yourself!



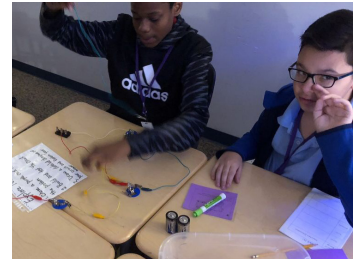
*Ms. Cardenas at Mary Harris uses technology and flexible seating to help kids stay engaged*



*Health Science learning with the Dairy Classroom at Sycamore*



*Mary Harris Meet and Greet for new substitute teachers tour campus and get to know students and staff*



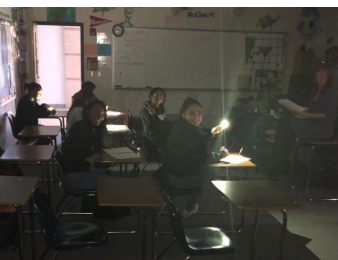
*Hands-on science instruction at David L. Walker*



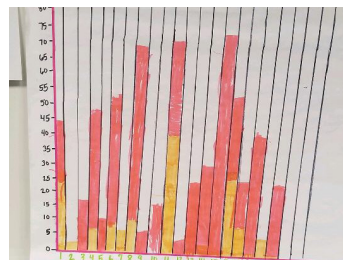
*Third-grade girls at J.A. Hargrave engaged with members of Girls Inc. to help build self-esteem*



*The District Literacy Committee hard at work developing our framework*



*North Crowley students still engaged and learning through multiple power outages*



*Tracking DreamBox lessons at Bess Race*



*Students at Crowley Learning Center receive their "Game Changer" awards*



*Dallas Park Principal Kevin Hunt monitoring instruction in STEAM classes*



*CTE students tell J.A. Hargrave students about different career paths*



*Engaged learners enjoy flexible seating at Oakmont*



*Robert Jackson speaking to young ladies at North Crowley Ninth Grade*



*Poynter students take book bags to read during restroom breaks*



*Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) steering committee planning for district-wide implementation*



*Crowley Ninth Grade English team meeting using backwards design to plan for the next unit at 7:30 a.m. on a Saturday*



*Principals presenting campus improvement plans to the Crowley ISD Board of Trustees during a pit stop activity.*

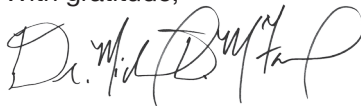


*Teachers at Crowley Ninth Grade were given a "brain smart" instructional strategy then taught it back as experts to their team of teachers*

I am so thankful to be on this team with you. We are not made by our history. We are the makers of history, and we are creating a new tomorrow for the students we serve. As we near the end of this calendar year, I encourage you to remember that the work you do daily to teach and inspire students is mission work.

As a profession, education is one of the highest callings, and I am proud to be carrying out this assignment with you. The work is not always immediately rewarding, and at times, it is extremely disappointing, but we must hold fast to the belief that what we do matters, and in most cases, will make the difference in future life choices. As we carry out our mission, we are creating pictures today for students who will look back in the year 2050 with appreciation and admiration, and they will see more than a thousand words.

With gratitude,



Mike McFarland