

## Superintendent Update

November 15, 2019

Quote for the Week: “It takes a hero to be one of those men (or women) who goes into battle.” —Norman Schwarzkopf

Press control and click to listen to Hero: <https://youtu.be/ivF2b8MExrY>

### **Teachers Are Heroes. So Listen To Them**

Norman Schwarzkopf was definitely a hero. In Operation Desert Storm, General Schwarzkopf orchestrated one of the most lopsided victories in modern warfare, a six-week blitzkrieg by a broad coalition of forces with overwhelming air superiority that liberated tiny Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, routed Saddam Hussein’s Republican Guard and virtually destroyed Iraq’s infrastructure, all with relatively light allied losses.

There are different types of heroes other than military heroes. School employees are heroes every day. The article I am writing is specifically about teachers, but generally any school employee has the same desire to love and protect our children...so this article is for all school employees.

The teaching profession doesn’t seem to be getting any easier and it can be said the school business as a total profession is also becoming more difficult for all employees.

In fact, on top of all of the other things asked of teachers (and all employees), the stress of this job is getting heavier and heavier and the work is becoming harder and harder. Not only are standardized tests gaining more power, parents hovering more, distractions worse than ever, and constant cuts in education funding, but teachers unfortunately work in a place that is becoming more and more violent. When we are with students, we want to think about making learning epic, and growing kids into kind, intelligent, critical thinking, extraordinary citizens.

And I am certain we are still trying to do that, but we must also think about keeping our doors locked at all times, and the fact that some classrooms have windows adds other dangerous possibilities. Add to that the student who keeps to himself a lot and is always angry, and how you worry about what. Probably most every school employee has thought about a scenario

where he/she would do whatever it took to protect our students if there was a shooter about to come into our school.

There are 3 million teachers and an equal number of classified employees as well as administrators who are thinking about these things almost on a daily basis. And it is stressful carrying this weight and responsibility...And it's not supposed to be this way. But it is.

What I think is interesting is the fact that we're not seeing a mass exodus of teachers right now in American schools. The voices of teachers that are rising up following the past horrible incidents such as the Parkland shooting is not that of complaining or even ultimatums threatening to leave the profession.

You're seeing teachers speak out in the name of students, supporting their voices, standing up for causes that are close to them. We're seeing teachers fight to make our schools, and ultimately society better.

Teachers (and school employees) are heroes. They've always been. And the fact that they are showing up to schools every day despite the threats as well as all the other pressures of our job only amplifies that fact. And I think it's time society recognizes them for that. Teachers are the ones on the ground, in these schools every day. Politicians and the media should be discussing how to make school safer for our kids, but I think teachers need to weigh in on these discussions, and politicians and the media need to listen.

If you're a teacher, use your voice. Share your thoughts with others. You've accepted the amazing, but heavy task of caring for the young people in our society, and giving them the skills, knowledge, and example of how to make our society better. And for that you're a hero.

And people listen when heroes speak.

And if you're not a teacher, do me a favor and thank one.

Then take a second to listen to them.

This article is heavily shaped towards teachers because they are the ones inside the classroom with kids. They are on the front line of loving, nurturing and protecting our children. We as school employees are also a large part of this work, but none of us carry the responsibility of the teacher who is inside that classroom with the kids.

## News for the week:

MHS held the annual Veterans' Day Celebration on November 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday). The event was well attended by MPV students, Veterans, friends and family. Thank you to the MHS student council, MHS band / choir, and all the staff and students that made it possible. A special thanks goes out to Col. Sprayberry (retired) for being our amazing guest speaker and to Mrs. Brenda Jeffers for organizing the event. Once again to all our Veterans thank you for your service and Happy Veterans' Day!

















**More Progress on MPV Auditorium**



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