



A note from the Superintendent

by Matthew Moore

Great Public Schools, a Basic Right and Our Responsibility

When the United States was fighting World War I, it was discovered that a startling 25 percent of the country's draftees were illiterate. In response, members of the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Legion teamed up in an effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education. American Education Week, first observed in 1921, was established to "inform the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs," emphasizing the importance of the public in public schools.

During American Education Week, November 12-16, Americans nationwide will join the NEA in raising awareness about the need to provide every child with a quality public education. Public schools are here for each and every student, no matter their circumstance, and we celebrate the fact that our schools welcome students of all backgrounds, abilities, and means. Each and every one of our students deserves our support, resources, and the opportunity to learn to enable them to reach their best potential.

Nearly a century has passed since American Education Week was established, and, perhaps now more than ever, high levels of community support and family involvement are essential ingredients for the ongoing success of students and schools. From the time that the first American public school was authorized in 1643—nearly 150 years before the establishment of the United States—to current day, the importance of unifying communities in the effort to build great public schools has been at the forefront of the American educational system. While the types of community support may have changed –we no longer have the need for farmers to supply wood for the school stove in the winter-we, as a community, are still called to become involved in our schools and we have a vested interest in our students' academic achievement and lifelong success.

One terrific way to support public education, while giving back to your community, and also getting something in return (a paycheck!) is to work as a substitute teacher. Substitute teaching provides the opportunity to meet new people, the freedom and flexibility to make your own schedule, and the gratification of knowing that you're making a difference in students' lives. Whether you're a parent of a young child or teen, a college student considering teaching as a profession, or a retiree, you may already qualify and not even know it! If you have at least 64 college semester hours from an accredited university and a minimum 2.45 GPA, you are eligible to join our team as a substitute. If this sounds like a good fit for you, you can find the substitute employment application on the district website. If you have questions or would like to learn more about substitute teaching in JCS, please contact Dr. Scott Wells at scott.wells@jessamine.kyschools.us or 885-4179.

For our families, know that research shows that the more involved you are with your child's school and learning, the better your child will perform academically, socially, and emotionally. To others in our community who are champions for education, thank you for all that you do to support our district and our students. In Jessamine County, we have challenged ourselves and each other to personalize instruction and provide each JCS student with whatever is needed to be successful, now, and into the future. Your contributions are critical and I invite you to join in our efforts, during American Education Week and beyond.



JCS