

James Cain Editorial
Sunday, September 20, 2015

Educators Change Live

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of the families and students of Port Huron Schools this past month. I visited numerous buildings the first week of school and was so impressed with our educators. It's important to remember as we start another school year that *educators change lives*.

This dedicated impact on students' lives is back in visible motion. Teachers are prepared, and with pride and care they meet their new students, engaging them in the learning process. Bus drivers strive to keep thousands of students safe every day. Our custodians ensure our buildings are presented in their best possible learning environments. The cafeteria staff members professionally serve every single one of our students free breakfast and lunch daily. The secretaries of our schools warmly welcome students and efficiently organize last minute enrollments and other back to school activities. Principals oversee many important details in order to make sure every student's first day and every day thereafter is a success.

Our organization relies on dedicated educators each day. There is a lot of pride in Port Huron Schools and truly, *it is our people who make the difference*.

As we begin the 2015-16 school year, I want to take a moment and reflect on how education has changed my life and encourage you to discuss and reflect with your child, how it has impacted yours. I could list so many names of individuals who made a difference in my life while I was a student. Mrs. Morrison, the friendly secretary in the office of my elementary school who always made me feel welcome and important. Mr. Coopes, my middle school English teacher, who gave me the extra time I needed each day to learn. Mr. Hamilton, a role model and high school government teacher, who taught me the importance of civic responsibility but more importantly, taught me many life lessons, was always there for me before or after school, and inspired me to be a teacher "just like him."

Finally, I'll share with you the name of Dr. Robert Meadows. "Bob" as he insisted his students call him was a professor of Educational Leadership at the University I attended. I was enrolled in his class at the time my father was involved in a tragic accident that changed my life forever. I don't remember the content of the class so much, but I do remember the hours of his personal time he spent helping a young man trying to make sense, cope, and move forward with life in the midst of great pain and heartache. Bob, I can never say "thank you" enough.

Like my experiences, I know there are so many students who are going to have their lives changed for the better by one of Port Huron Schools' outstanding educators. If one of our staff members positively impacted your life or your child's life, I encourage you to share your experience by emailing social.media@phasd.us with the subject line "Life Changer." We want to

share those stories with our educators to let them know how much they are valued and appreciated.

Throughout the year as a district we recognize students and staff members who are changing lives for the better every day. Thank you to our outstanding team of educators. I am so proud of the work you do on behalf of our students.

James Cain

Superintendent of Port Huron Schools

Please email Superintendent@phasd.us to request to receive the “This Week @ Port Huron Schools” weekly e-newsletter.