

Terry's Teachers Care!

by Joe Krause, Terry School's Superintendent & Principal

I was sitting with a friend the other day who he was telling me how bummed out he was that he missed so many opportunities to spend time with his son. His boy is older now, but he still has a younger one who he's trying to do the right things for. While he can do the right things for his youngest son, it doesn't diminish the regret he feels for missing relationship-building opportunities with his oldest boy.

As a parent, I figured I had about thirteen years to develop a decent relationship with my kids. After that, if the relationship isn't already established, it's an uphill climb. Thirteen years of spending "quantity time" and not just "quality time". The quality time is not likely to occur if the quantity time never happens. Thirteen years of building a foundation of trust. It sounds like plenty of time, but it goes by in the blink of an eye.

One of the reasons I decided to become an elementary teacher was because I could remember every elementary teacher I ever had. And yes...I can still remember them! They made a difference in my life. They made a difference because of relationships. They cared about me and I knew it. I wanted to learn because I didn't want to disappoint my teachers. Elementary teachers are fortunate to have so much time to spend with their students.

Junior high and high school teachers have a more difficult task. Even if they are fortunate enough to have students for four years, they usually only teach them for about 55 minutes a day. 55 minutes a day to build trusting relationships with lots of students is a huge challenge. I'm proud of the efforts Terry School's staff makes to build trusting relationships with their students. That is one of the special things about Terry School. Staff members end up knowing kids a lot better than is often possible in larger schools.