



## From the Cabinet

By Dr. Jeff McCanna, Human Capital Officer

### Teacher Appreciation Week

How lucky is it when my cabinet column lands on “Teacher Appreciation Week???” As you may be aware, National Teacher Appreciation Week for 2023 is the week of May 8-12. This is a week that school districts nationwide set aside time to thank teachers for the critical role that each of them plays in the education of our children.

Earlier this week I got to spend some time talking with our FPS students and I asked them why they appreciated their teachers; it was no surprise when their eyes lit up and they got to share their thoughts on why they loved their teachers. Eliza, a first grader shared “Ms. McGuire was my Kindergarten teacher last year and she was so nice to all of us and really helped us learn.” She went on to share that she really loves her first grade teacher Ms. Lee “because she is nice and helps us if we have problems and checks on us if we are having a bad day.”

#### More from our students:

“Mr. Towers is funny. He’s kind. He enjoys sports as well. He brings in jokes as he teaches. I have learned a lot from him.”

“Mrs. Schneck has helped me a lot with math and I’m getting better because of her. She is really nice. She’s just really cool!”

“Miss Halverson has helped me learn to count and know my alphabet. Whenever I get nervous, she makes me feel better. She cares about me a lot!”

“Ms. Bollinger helps me learn new things and how to be nice,” “We go on field trips,”  
“I like my teacher because she is funny and laughs at my jokes.” *3<sup>rd</sup> Grader*

“...my teacher just loves me...” *Kindergartener*

“My teacher teaches me lots of things I am going to use in my future.” *1<sup>st</sup> grader*

“Mr. Thomas is always happy to see his students and makes a personal connection with everyone. In his class you feel seen, heard, and your voice matters. He is the most considerate, kind, caring and thoughtful teachers I’ve had.”



## Cabinet Column, continued

“Dear Mrs. Howe, I want to thank you for being an amazing and passionate teacher. You never fail to make us laugh in class. You bring joy. I’ve never met someone so passionate about something the way you are passionate for your students’ success.”

“Mrs. Kelly, thank you for showing me so much love as I transitioned to this new school. You’ve been nothing but kind and loving and you care for all of us as if we are your own. I struggled so much to catch up, but you always gave me time on days that I felt bad, you always know how to handle it. Thank you for everything.”

### **From our parents:**

“Mr. Hall was my daughter’s third grade teacher, and he taught her to love math and she still does to this day because of him.”

“The student-teacher relationship is crucial to the learning process. And that relationship makes such a difference in the lives of students, which we have seen in our family. Our two children have benefitted from devoted teachers who pour themselves into their students. Teachers have found their strengths and ignited a desire to learn and grow in them.”

### **From our Superintendent:**

“Our teachers go above and beyond each day to help our students learn and grow. They care for our children and their dedication to our work is unmatched. Although the week of May 8 is dedicated as National Appreciation Week for our teachers, we in the Fargo Public School system recognize each day that our teachers truly are the best and we value all that they do.”

As I reflected on all of these quotes and so many more that I was unable to add to this column, it made me think back to [Rita Pierson - "Every kid needs a champion" TED Talk](#) and the importance of building relationships with our students. Thank you for being mom, dad, coach, counselor, cheerleader, AND teacher to our kiddos! Thank you for being their champion!

**Parents**, if you have not already done so, please take the time to let your children’s teachers know how much you appreciate them and, thank you for being your child’s first, and most important teacher.

**Teachers**, please never forget that you matter, that you make a difference, that your dedication and commitment gives our students the limitless opportunities that they deserve.

