

# The Principal's FOCUS

## What I Value

I recently read an article ("Valuing Teachers," *Education Next*, Summer 2011) that presented a very simple question, "How much is a good teacher worth?" as its research focus. The researcher focused on looking at student achievement as measured through the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) exam. In summary, a good teacher increases each student's lifetime earnings by \$10,600. Given a class of 20 students, that teacher will raise their aggregate earnings by \$212,000. A great teacher (one standard deviation above good in the study), will shift earnings by more than \$400,000! Talk about a major impact on the economy!

What does this mean to the community? Our new designation as a state (one of 21 in PA) and nationally (one of 250 in the country) recognized school means we have a lot of good and great teachers. As their principal, I see individuals providing quality learning experiences day in and day out.

As the principal of CMS, I am charged with the responsibility of providing a quality middle school experience for the students of this community. As one person, I cannot possibly reach nearly 800 adolescent learners on my own; however, I can do this through my faculty. By focusing on my teachers, I can effectively reach all the students. As a result, the majority of my time is spent on the teachers and academic programming of CMS. In turn, they create the experiences and moments that will have a life-long impact on your children.

We have spent the past 12 years or so bashing teachers in public education and forcing a tremendous amount of pressures placed upon local schools [i.e. standardized testing, funding cuts – direct and indirect (cyber school funding), charters, vouchers, etc.]. When I look around CMS, I simply do not understand why public schools are put in such a bad light.

So, what do I value? I value my teachers who do wonders for the students each and every day - professionals who will have a long lasting impact on our economy and country's future. I value this community who appreciates the importance of supporting their local schools. We can only do these great things with parental and community support. Finally, I value the fact that I have been fortunate enough to be serving as Canonsburg Middle School's principal for my seventh year now...looking forward to another great year!



## Quick Facts

Grades	7 & 8
Number of Students	760
Faculty	51
Staff	17

## ACADEMICS

Keystone Achievements	7
Reading PSSA	89%
Math PSSA	84%
Science PSSA	76%
Writing PSSA	89%

