



Monday Morning Thoughts

May 12 - June 1, 2026

"Kindness begets kindness ~~ always."

Greetings Everyone,

As we head down the home stretch of another school year, my final year, I want to take a moment to pause and simply say: thank you.

You made it—and not just barely. You showed up day after day, even during the difficult moments, even when you were tired, stretched thin, or running on fumes. That kind of consistency is powerful. It reflects your commitment, your heart, and your unwavering dedication to students.

As I reflect on the past seven years, I do so with deep gratitude and admiration for all we have experienced together. We have celebrated incredible successes, faced meaningful challenges, and navigated moments none of us could have anticipated. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: every single one of you has always worked to do what was best for students. Every time. That is something truly special, and I would not change a thing about the journey we have shared together. I will go into retirement a better person for having known each and every one of you. 38 years is a long time to be in this field and I have learned so much; saying goodbye is never easy and it is something that I don't do well. Because, I know that my influence is fleeting and new and better things are on the horizon.

Never underestimate the impact you have. Every encouraging word, every moment of patience, every lesson taught with care leaves a lasting mark far beyond the walls of a classroom. You are building confidence, inspiring curiosity, and helping students believe in themselves—often in ways they may not fully recognize until years later.

Clint Pulver reminds educators to "Be a Mr. Jensen," because relationships are the foundation. Students may forget assignments or test scores, but they will always remember how you made them feel. Your kindness, your consistency, and your belief in them matter deeply.

And as *Thank You, Mr. Faulkner* so powerfully illustrates, one caring teacher can change the trajectory of a student's life. The work you do echoes through families, schools, and entire communities. The seeds you plant today grow into tomorrow's leaders, helpers, parents, and dreamers.

Thank you for showing up, for caring deeply, and for making a difference every single day. Your influence is greater than you know.

A few reminders as we finish strong together:

- Don't underestimate your influence—you are more important than you think.
- Relationships are essential to building a culture of learning and growth.
- Courageous decisions will inspire some and disappoint others—and that's okay.
- Take care of yourself so you can continue caring for others.
- None of us have ever truly "arrived," so keep learning and growing.
- Know your "why," and give yourself permission to shift when it no longer serves you.

As you reflect on this year, consider your own story. Who influenced you to become the person you are today? Have you thanked the people who helped shape your path?

Thank you for being part of this journey and for the extraordinary work you do for students every day.

PLANNING AHEAD

- Monday, May 11
 - ODE/SASI webinar 1:00 p.m.
 - Diamond School Board meeting and budget board meeting
- Tuesday, May 12
 - ODE Harney Region zoom meeting 8:00 a.m.
 - Fields School Board meeting and budget board meeting
 - Frenchglen School Board meeting and budget board meeting
 - Pine Creek School Board meeting and budget board meeting
- Wednesday, May 13
 - OAESD Superintendent Council meeting 9:00 - 11:00
 - ODE Streamlining Reporting Pilot monthly zoom meeting 9:00 a.m.
 - Lions Club meeting at Belle Java 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, May 14
 - OPK Directors Zoom meeting 9:00 a.m.
 - ODE Section 504 Webinar 12:00 p.m.
 - Drewsey School Board meeting and budget board meeting
- Friday, May 15
 - COSA Friday Forum zoom meeting 8:00 a.m.
- Monday, May 18 -
 - ODE Small District Collaborative zoom meeting 8:30 a.m.
 - ESD/ODE Problem of Practice zoom meeting 1:00 p.m.
 - ESD/ODE SSA Comprehensive Plan Evaluation zoom meeting 2:00 p.m.

-
- Tuesday, May 19
 - EMT Day at ECC 9:00 a.m.
 - COSA OTR Zoom meeting 2:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, May 20
 - HESD Board meeting and budget board meeting
 - Double O School Board meeting and budget board meeting
 - Last day of School for Frenchglen
 - Thursday, May 21
 - RTAP Monthly zoom meeting 10:00 a.m.
 - Parent Policy Council meeting at ECC 12:00 p.m.
 - Last day of School for: Crane, Diamond, Double O, Drewsey, Fields, Pine Creek, Suntex
 - Friday, May 22
 - COSA Friday Forum zoom 8:00 a.m.
 - Monday, May 25



-
- Tuesday, May 26
- Wednesday, May 27
- Thursday, May 28
 - Preschool Graduation
- Friday, , May 29
- Monday, June 1
 - Rural Teacher End of Year Celebration and Planning 9:00 a.m. @ ESD

~~ YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE ~~