

## Letter about Core Values

Many business and organizations focus their group around a set of values that are important to that organization. In the spring of 2008, our SIC began the process of selecting five core values that would have meaning to the students, faculty and staff at Richland Northeast. The purpose was to give our *Cavalier Family* a set of concepts to work towards as individuals and as a group. The final five values that were selected were: *respect, responsibility, honesty, integrity and community*.

The 2008 school year kicked off with a video introducing and giving meaning to each of the values. The video ended with a RAP written by math teacher Bob Stutts and featuring a number of the faculty and students. This video began our Core Value Tuesday program on the Morning News Show. Twice a month, I am on the show awarding iPods to students and gift certificates to teachers that have shown the core values through their actions. For students the act can be as simple as picking up trash or helping a teacher. Since we were unable to award all the acts of kindness, we developed coins that administrators can handout as they see students doing the right thing. For the other weeks, the broadcast students prepare video messages from well-known people throughout the community. In addition, they also have programs featuring interviews on subjects related to the values. Two examples are the programs on plagiarism and profanity.

This year's class meetings featured a new RAP video again with students, faculty and administrators. It was a huge success. We will continue Core Value Tuesday just like last year.

In addition to the iPods and Core Value Coins, we will also be awarding students Core Value t-shirts when spotted doing something good. What excites me as a principal, our student government has developed a Senior of the Month based upon our Core Values that provides a designated parking space for a student who earns this through his/her exhibiting Core Values on a daily basis.

Our Core Value Program allows the faculty, staff and students a springboard to be able to articulate what makes us good, 21<sup>st</sup> century people and gives us all some common values. This program allows us not only the opportunity to talk about what is good, but also to celebrate when students, faculty and staff do something that makes us good. It has become a big part of what makes us the Cavalier Family.

Ralph Schmidt, Principal