

Each Day Is the Best

BY RYAN CHAMPEAU

There are so many good days as a principal that it's difficult to select just one, but the first day of having all our freshmen together was certainly one of the best days this year. On this day, before the rest of the student body arrived, the freshmen were introduced to Waukesha North High School



through our Ignition Program. It was a challenge determining who was more excited, the freshmen or the upperclass mentors. I think the upperclassmen won because they ignited the freshmen with unbelievable enthusiasm and a positive attitude for school.

The payoff of the Ignition Program is clear: students being positive, demonstrating school spirit, helping one another, and practicing their skills as future leaders. The older students are genuinely happy to be back in school and serving as mentors. The freshmen are somewhat stressed, not knowing

what to expect, but are happy to be in high school and have older students genuinely care about their success. I observed new friendships being forged among the freshmen and mentors who were sharing their common enthusiasm for a new school year. Both the veteran and new "North-stars" share the common goals of being successful in the classroom and actively caring about one another.

This yearly ritual reminds me of the awesome responsibility we have as principals and the optimistic vision we share. Do we succeed with everyone each and every day? No, of course not,



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but the first day of school is a day to start trying again. It is one of my best days, repeated every year with slight variation, which leads to another best year of helping students be successful. Being the principal gives me a unique opportunity to make each day the best for everyone in the school. I truly believe every day is one of my best, and it is my hope that this is true of all my colleagues and our students and staff members at Waukesha North!

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To celebrate one of your best days as a principal, please send a 350-word essay and photographs to plmag@principals.org.