

April 2, 2015

Dear Mr. Dixon,

Thank you for your visits to Hines Middle School to talk with our students and staff about the power they have to intentionally decide to be positive and to create their future by showing them ways to think, act, and talk more positively every day.

Your hands on approach--speaking at career day, visiting classrooms, talking with students about their goals and plans, highlighting the importance of math and reading education, and your social and emotional development talks with students--makes a connection with our kids! When I talked with students and staff a couple of weeks after your most recent visit, they provided some very rich feedback about the impact of your messages on their lives.

*"Learn how to tune negative stuff out. Learn how to be more positive and to control your emotions." Darryl, 7<sup>th</sup> grader*

*"Positive thinking helps students who are being bullied and it helps you not to hang around the wrong crowd." Kaya, 7<sup>th</sup> grader*

*"He told us to be grateful and thankful for what we have." Tyrone, 7<sup>th</sup> grader*

*"We liked the message about the clear icicle." Many 7<sup>th</sup> grade students*

*"Powerful message, thank you for inviting Mr. Dixon to our school." T. Staton & R. Bundy, teachers*

I want you to know that you continue to inspire me as well to make positive change here at Hines. I have written a school pledge that all students will memorize and recite daily beginning in September. The school pledge begins like this- As a Hines Spartan I pledge to be SAFE- I will *control my emotions* and actions and stand for what is right. **Your control your emotions mantra is SO POWERFUL.**

I am thrilled that your voice will be heard as policy is addressed to support all of our kids, especially children and staff in urban settings. We need SO much.

We know that a part of internalizing new behaviors is regular support and reflection. Thank you for your regular return to Hines Middle to continue the inspiring work we have begun. Your presence at HMS has made such a positive difference. We look forward to ALL of the GREATNESS yet to come!

Sincerely and with blessings,



Amanda Corbin-Staton, Ed.D.  
Principal