

Good Morning,

I hope this week has been positive for you and your students. We have gotten off to a productive start this year. This is due completely to the hard work and dedication of everyone in our schools, in the classrooms, on our buses and in our cafeterias.

I feel certain that everyone is aware of the impending weather situation. A major hurricane is most likely to hit Florida late tonight or tomorrow. This storm will work its way up the coast before returning to the ocean in the southeastern part of our state. I would like to not only encourage, but urge each classroom teacher to use this relevant event to connect the reality of our world with your classroom instruction. There are many, many different pieces to this event that can be connected to science, math, ELA, and social studies. But, as important, character education and caring for others should and must be part of our mission, daily.

Research has shown that relevance is a powerful tool for educators. Sometimes we have our heads down and are working so hard with standards and objectives that we miss the teachable moments. This is certainly a teachable event.

The effects of Hurricane Mathew will be felt by hundreds of thousands of Americans in the next few days. If individual classrooms or schools want to organize support efforts to support the impacted regions or citizens, please know that your school and district administrators will support your efforts. While we know some of our own children face economic hardships of their own, many times those who need the most contribute the most. Unfortunately, they understand the reality of a bad situation in all too real terms.

Again, thank you to everyone who has contributed to our wonderful start to this year.

Rick K.