

Greetings,

So we made it through our first week of school! I have to say that I think we had a pretty awesome opening for the school year. Sure there were some hiccups like delayed buses in the afternoon and issues with our student ids at the secondary level, but these things are, in many respects, expected as we work out the kinks and get everything and everyone situated. More importantly, students all seem to be happy to be back in school and have hit the ground running. I have really enjoyed visiting the buildings, though I am already starting to appreciate how much I miss being in the mix! What always helped me decompress was walking the hallways and talking to students and staff, so the idea of not having the opportunity to do this on a daily basis will be difficult to deal with. However, when I do have the opportunity to visit the buildings, I get to visit students of all ages and that is new to me - and it's pretty awesome! I have just loved watching all of the positivity and love on display in each of our buildings this past week and that's a credit to the entire staff!

Aside from the opening of schools, this time of year also represents a pivotal and sad moment in our nation's history. Sunday marks the 21st anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. For those of us who lived through these events, it is a day of complicated emotions as we recall the tragic images and remember loved ones lost on that day. I will never forget the overwhelming feeling of uncertainty and fear I had as I watched the towers burn from a distance. Mt oo f!0ns as

However, I also recall the spirit of unity and compassion that bound us all at that time. It was an amazing time. I am sure many of us remember the heroes who rose up and the neighbors who reached out and those countless moments when the ties of family, community and country felt stronger than ever. We should all be reminded of the patriotic pride and resilient American spirit that shone that day.

heroes who answered the call to serve on that day and in the weeks and months that followed. While we honor our heroes with thoughts and prayers, let us also honor them with action.

Let's all be a part of a lasting and forward-looking legacy -- anmMMbinon 9/11 as we remember and honor 9/11

those injured, and others impacted by 9/11 terrorist attacks. And let's be inspired to always look

out for our families, communities, and each other. I believe South Country has the spirit to do just that.

Best wishes for a great weekend and thank you for your hard work and dedication.

It really is a true privilege serving you as your superintendent of schools!

#clipperPIDE