

Good morning,

Please give me your attention for the next 3 minutes, because I have some important words to share with you today.

As you know, the core building goal that we are working on here at Newfield High School is *responsibility for our work and actions: students, staff, family, and community*. We are promoting this goal by focusing on motivation, mutually respectful & safe behavior, aesthetics, and service.

It is not easy for a school to pull together to do this. It takes hard work, persistence, flexibility, and courage. Our school has close to 300 students and over 30 staff members. It is a real challenge to bring all of our different ideas, personalities, and experiences together in a way that makes us all feel included, valued, and part of the same team.

But, as Rachel Scott demonstrated, when we commit ourselves to doing what's right, no matter what, it is possible to start a chain reaction. Here at Newfield High School, we have started a chain reaction of responsibility, and as your principal, it is important for me to publically recognize all of you for what you are doing.

When you walk around the building, you will see that the art club has started a new project on the wall outside of Ms. Goldman's room. You will see that the class of 2013 has adopted the front stairway and has begun painting this area. You will see that the aesthetics committee, made up of students and staff, has been painting the heaters in the front doorway, as well as parts of the hallway in our music and technology wing. Our seniors have begun painting part of the senior lounge.

If you listen, you will hear that students are saying *good morning*, and *please*, and *thank you* when they come into the office to ask Mrs. Walsh or Mrs. Capogrossi for assistance. You will hear teachers talking about something new they've tried in order to make their lessons more effective.

There are so many examples of students and staff adding to our chain reaction that I could go on for another 10 minutes – but I won't. Your teachers are ready to teach and you are ready to learn. I will leave you with one final thought. The purpose of our goal is to help us create the school we want. We envision a school community that is **Conscious, Consistent, and Committed** to what's best for our **Community**. Achieving our vision will not be easy, but I do believe it is possible. I am proud of you, and I am proud to be a part of this effort.