

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### *Maximizing Potential One Child at a Time*

We all want what's best for our children. Whether they are biologically connected, adopted or entrusted to our care for a season in their life, we have their best interest at heart. Nonetheless, we face many challenges as we nurture their development, and there may come a time when we question the decisions we've made on their behalf. We will, from time to time struggle with the process; however there is no question in my mind that we all genuinely care. Yet, it seems that caring is not enough.

It is our responsibility, which includes every adult who is accountable for the children in our care to become more. It is not enough that we have high expectations for our precious children or that we support and encourage them to believe in themselves; we must also **personally strive to be better. We must believe in ourselves.** A gentleman by the name of Jim Rohn once said, "We can have more than we've got because we can become more than we are." This call of personal excellence is not simply a challenge to all of the teachers and staff of North Chevy Chase Elementary School, but also to every parent and guardian of the children we serve. As wonderful as they are, our children can be even better if we are sincere about improving ourselves. In a book that I am currently reading by R. Kent Hughes the author captured our responsibility to our children by stating, "Above all, we must make sure that the open book of our lives – our example – demonstrates the reality of our instruction, for in watching us they will learn the most."

We all have the capacity to move our children to greater heights by making a conscious effort to improve our own personal development. Let us all spend more time looking in the mirror so we can be better leaders for the children entrusted to our care. Our own journey of personal change will increase our empathy for the change, growth and development we expect in our children.

Maximizing potential is not just the parents' responsibility, or the students' responsibility or even the teachers' responsibility. *Maximizing Potential One Child at a Time* is our **collective responsibility** that I believe we are ready to embrace. That is why I am anticipating a new level of character and intellect from the students we serve this coming school year.