

Dear **Staff, Families and Students,**

As we move through the second semester, there are many **celebrations** around the district. When I walk through buildings, I see our **Leader in Me** learning coming to **life** on the walls, in the classrooms and through our students and staff. Students **leading** newscasts, **creating** content for our CCSD Facebook page, **collecting** supplies for the animal shelter, **engaging** in problem solving for their learning communities, and **growing** through the Habits of Being Proactive, Beginning with the End in Mind, Putting First Things First, Thinking Win-Win, Seeking First to Understand and Then to Be Understood, Synergizing and Sharpening the Saw.

When considering how I use these habits to **navigate** my personal journey, I would like to pause and focus on **my time in Clarinda**. For almost three years, I have dedicated my time, energy, and support for students, staff, families, and the community. Intentionally, I returned to **rural Iowa** to serve in an environment parallel to my own upbringing. I am grateful for this choice.

We have curious, determined **students**. We have passionate, dedicated **teachers and staff**. We have a strong, inspiring **administrative team**. We have a students-first and teacher-supported **school board**. With all this in place, it is time for me to close this chapter and serve in a different capacity. I am confident the district will find a superintendent to move work forward in a positive manner, and I am comfortable knowing we have so many of the right people within our **Cardinal Family**.

I wish each of you a **blessed** rest of the year and beyond. I **appreciate** you and will **miss** being a part of your journey.

Take care,

Chris

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#theCARDINALway