

01/04/22

Dear **Cardinal** Staff and Families,

Welcome back! **2022** is ahead of us, and we have so much to **look forward** to in the CCSD! As we collaborate to build the **culture we desire**, it is important to remember that **“life changes when you change.”** It’s that simple (and it’s that hard).

A few days ago, when opening my email, I paused to read one of my daily blogs, *Leadership Freak by Dan Rockwell*. It is now a few days later, and I find myself reading two entries once again. Because they stayed with me, I decided to share with you. The blog posts provide insights that will **change your life** ...provided you put the practice into action through “practice.” Enjoy!

Take care,  
Chris

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*Leadership Freak by Dan Rockwell, December 31, 2021*

If you had room to grow and you didn't, you have failed---regardless of your achievements. Davide Shapiro said, "The purpose of life is to grow and give." Only perfect people don't need to grow. We get closer to our potential when we grow, but we're always less than we could be. Learning is growing.

**Four simple practices that will change your life:**

**#1. Say, “That didn’t work.”**

You can’t learn if you can’t admit failure. The need to be right is a fool’s path to oblivion.

**Practice:** Once a week say, “I’m trying to make this better, but it’s not working like I’d hoped. What suggestions do you have?”

**#2. Try things.**

What are you trying? I’m not talking about doing the same thing over and over. That kind of trying is dead-ended. What are you trying that you haven’t tried before? How might you do old things in new ways?

**Practice:** Once a week intentionally try something new.

**#3. Build relationships.**

The greatest instrument of change, beyond personal commitment, is people. You become like the people around you. “Show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future.” Anonymous

Every person I coach changes me.

**Practice:** Spend unstructured time with people on your team. Have coffee or lunch. *Don’t talk about work.*

#### #4. Meet new people.

Over the years I've had scores of one-time conversations with new people. Only a handful were disappointing.

Meeting new people is inconvenient when you're busy doing important work. Remind yourself that meeting new people changes you.

When YOU change, life changes.

**Practice:** Six times a year reach out to someone you would like to meet. (A video conference with a new person may change you.)

**Tip:** Put these simple practices on your calendar.

**What practice might change you this year?**

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*Leadership Freak by Dan Rockwell, January 3, 2022*

### *Change your life through being open to learning:*

Be ready to learn: Learners go further than knowers.

**Practice:**

1. Show up asking, "What can I learn?"
2. Stay open to learning from unexpected people.
3. Ask, "What am I missing?"