

May 7, 2003

Dear Melanie:

This will be one of the most difficult and challenging letters I have ever written because it means I will be saying good-bye to my Westerville North Family. I never dreamed in the summer of 1975 when I walked into this school that I would be entering a phase of my life that would be so rewarding and exciting.

I have been very fortunate during this time to work with some of the most talented and dedicated professionals that any administrator could have been associated. The sign over our front door says it all because you represent the very best of our profession.

“Through These Doors Pass The Finest Students and Staff In The World”

Westerville North has such an outstanding reputation and the reason is that every one of you, regardless of your title or role, realizes that next to parents we have the second greatest opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students.

Great schools have great traditions and you certainly have established many including creating a environment where we set our students up for success, not failure; a school where we realize that the fire we light in our students for learning will affect them for a lifetime; a school where we take the extra time to get to know our students and show them we care; a school where we invest in our students, show them we believe in them, compliment them and acknowledge their gifts; and a school where we have made it a safe place to dream.

I do hope that the time we have spent together has been rewarding for you and that you always felt you were treated as both a friend and a professional even during those times when we didn't always agree. As I reflect on this time I know the good times have always outweighed the challenging situations that we face in our jobs. I hope this has been true for you.

Each of you touches the lives of you students and colleagues every day. I thank you also for making a difference in my life and for this I will be forever grateful. I am sure it comes as not surprise that the following quote is one of my favorites.

“Some people come into our lives and quickly leave. Others stay a while and leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never ever the same.”

The future of Westerville North is in good hands because quality schools are the result of quality staff members going above and beyond the call of duty and this is certainly one of our greatest traditions. The Warrior Family has always come together both in times of need and celebration. I encourage you to continue to work with your students with mercy and grace and your reward will always be great.

Earlier I used the word “good-bye” but that sounds so final so I will conclude by saying “until we meet again”.

“May the road rise to meet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine brightly upon your face, may the rain fall softly upon your fields and until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand”.

Sincerely,



James L. McCann