



Extraordinary Educational Experiences

North Kansas City Schools



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May 11, 2017

Dr. Daniel Clemens, Superintendent of Schools
North Kansas City Schools

Dear Danny,

It is with mixed emotions that I tender this letter of resignation, effective at the end of my contract, June 30, 2017. As I conclude my thirty-fifth year in public education, the time is right.

The last time I resigned was twenty years ago when I made the decision to relocate my family from Lebanon, Missouri to Kansas City. The decision to come to North Kansas City Schools and this community was the best professional and personal decision we could have made. It was a pleasure to serve the New Mark community for six wonderful years as their principal. I was humbled when Superintendent, Dr. Tom Cummings, asked me to join him as a member of his Cabinet from 2003-2007. Spending four years at Central Office was an incredible learning experience and helped prepare me for what lied ahead.

With a team of committed educators, we had the fortune to open Staley High School August 18, 2008. Birthing a new kind of high school with a focus on mastery, an unwavering commitment to never giving up on students, expecting success, and building a team of people with positivity and integrity has been the most rewarding professional experience I have ever had. From the ground up through today, we have had many defining moments that will be treasured for a lifetime. Working with the best educators of any high school in America has been an honor and privilege. I have the deepest affection for the faculty and staff here. They understand “the role of the teacher is the highest calling of a free people.”

As Staley approaches its ten-year anniversary, it is without question, one of the best high schools in America because of the dedication and involvement of my administrative team, faculty, staff, students, community stakeholders, and business partnerships. Named a 2017 U.S. News Best High School, Staley is ranked 11th in Missouri and 2nd in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Staley is close to achieving a 100% graduation rate for the Class of 2017. Staley has accomplished a 139.5 points out of 140 on the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP 5) in 2015 & 2016. We have a cadre of parent volunteers organized under the umbrella of Falcon Club, who exemplify the epitome of PTSA and booster clubs. Staley values tradition and symbols that illustrate our founding principles. Finally, we have worked hard at building the trust between home, school, and community, which has been our highest priority.

As June 30 draws near, I will do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition and entry plan for the second principal of Staley High School. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Staley High School and North Kansas City Schools. I have been most fortunate.

Respectfully,

Clark W. Mershon

Vision Statement

Staley High School is a community where individual and collective gifts are celebrated to foster personal and academic excellence.

Mission Statement (Our Purpose)

We commit ourselves to create and sustain an inclusive environment of learning that challenges and inspires each of us to SOAR through: **S**ervice, **O**wnership, **A**chievement, and **R**espect.

