



# GISD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## **THE KEY TO LONG-TERM SUCCESS**

In the spring of 2015, Coach Mike Krzyzewski led his Duke University basketball team to the national championship. It was Coach K's 5<sup>th</sup> national title at Duke dating back to his first in 1991. In fact, Duke has been the nation's most prominent men's basketball program since shortly after Coach K took the job in 1980 - almost 40 years ago! And, in case you missed it, Duke is ranked #1 in the nation in this year's preseason poll with Coach K still at the helm.

So, what is his secret and what does this have to do with us? Well, in a press conference, right after that 2015 championship game, Coach K made a simple statement that goes beyond basketball and, in my opinion, speaks loudly to us as educators. When asked to comment on how he has managed to maintain such a successful program for such a long time, Coach K said, "*The ability to adapt is key...in everything. It's not like you're making sacrifices. Just (ask) 'what does this group need from you?' And then you try to give (them) that."*

Certainly, we all have our preferred practices, methods, and systems for taking care of our business. Most of these are based on what has worked in the past or based on how we like to do our work. But, how many of us truly understand the productive value of being able (and willing) to adapt to variables we simply can't control?

As educators, we have much to offer our students - a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to share. But, each student comes to us with a unique set of circumstances and needs that don't always mesh with our usual way of doing things. I believe, that if we truly want all students to learn, it is critically important for us to take a step back and make sure we are basing what *WE DO* on what *THEY NEED* from us. The needs of those we serve - our students - are the key variables that can't be ignored. As Coach K put it, we must be able to adapt.

For educators, this means asking ourselves every day what our students need - both individually and as a group - and truly committing ourselves to giving them that. Even if it requires something different and new from us and, yes, even if it stretches us out of our comfort zone. This adaptability is how good becomes great and how greatness becomes excellence!

Our willingness to adapt and evolve sets us (and our students) up for victory - the ultimate product of hard work and commitment. The best educators and businesses understand this and you can bet Coach K does, too. Do you think his young millennial players show up on campus with the same variables as young people in the 80s or 90s? Both society and the game have evolved, so Coach K adapts and evolves, too. It would be easier for him to coach his team the same way year after year, but he would much rather keep on winning! I think that is a powerful message for us as our "game" has most certainly evolved as well.

Have an EXCELLENT week and don't be afraid to try something new! You are appreciated...every day!

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
6 College Shirt Day	7	8	9 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Football @ Pleasant Grove  9 <sup>th</sup> /JV Football vs Pleasant Grove (H)	10 Bear Football @ Pleasant Grove 7:30
13 GISD Board Meeting 6:00 PM	14	15	16	17 Early Release: WES/GMS – 12:00 GPS/GHS – 12:15
20 Thanksgiving Holiday	21 Thanksgiving Holiday	22 Thanksgiving Holiday	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Thanksgiving Holiday