



## Mr. Barge's Instructional Tip of the Week!

### Being Reflective

We are off to a great start! The other day I walked by the gymnasiums after school to see hundreds of students engaged in activities after the school day. Students were rehearsing for SING!, competing in PSAL sports, connecting with their teachers, and smiling. It was great to hear students' excitement about not only the activities that they are engaged in but also their classes as they were sharing how great their first days of the semester have been. I greatly appreciate all that you do for our students both in and out of the classroom. It is the **CARE** that you provide to our students that has come to define this great community. Thank you.

Undoubtedly, you all have spent a great deal of time over these last few weeks connecting with your colleagues and reflecting on the fall semester to effectively plan for the spring. In looking back over the last 25 years, I can honestly say that being reflective might be one of the most important aspects of teaching that has helped in my growth as an educator. As we begin the spring semester, it is important that we all continue to be reflective, and analyze our data, to ensure that we prepare our students for the world that awaits them. For me, reflection happens each day and after every lesson. "Did I meet my instructional objectives?," "What worked well during my lesson?," "What didn't work well?," "How was my timing?," "What would I do differently?," and of course one of the more important inquiry statements ... "I know my students are learning because...!"

As we begin our work this semester, I ask you all to continue to be reflective. This should happen not just when you are planning your lessons but also when you engage in your inquiry work with you teacher teams to ensure our collective efforts, strategies, and practices can respond to the needs of our students with a level of certainty. It's that reflection that is essential in planning engaging lessons, rigorous tasks, thought provoking questions, and purposeful groupings. Please review the "Classroom Expectations" memo discussed at our faculty check-in on January 30, 2023 to assist you with your reflection and planning.

*... because at Edward R. Murrow High School, we **CARE** about our students!*