

DR. JAN HUNGATE



Full Name: Sherry Jan Kay Hungate

Education: B.S. from Texas Tech University; M.Ed. from Tarleton State University; and Ed.D. Tarleton State University

Current Position: Assistant Superintendent—West ISD

Former Jobs in Education: High School and Middle School English, reading, journalism teacher, Elementary teacher, Assistant HS principal, HS principal, Elementary principal, Superintendent, College instructor, Consultant to National Evaluations Systems, Inc.

Interests: The theatre and more specifically Broadway musicals (Did I tell you about my trip to New York?), my terrific family including my husband, Bobby, cool college kid, Kayce, daughter, Kara and granddaughter, Maci, a first grader at West Elementary.

Interesting Fact: I serve on numerous educational and community boards including the Texas School Health Advisory Committee as a passionate advocate for children's health appointed by the Texas State Commissioner of Health.

Leadership Mantra: Whatever it takes!

Philosophy of Leadership

Leaders have many pressures and obligations placed upon them by external forces, which can sometimes cause a loss of focus and purpose. I hope to never lose sight of my desire and commitment to the bottom line, to serve students, educators and parents/families. I believe that leadership is a choice, a personal responsibility, and my leadership philosophy reflects my passionate desire to make a difference. I have been given the opportunity to make a difference by serving children and their families, and pray that I am able to do so for many years to come.

I also believe that leadership is about having a vision, establishing direction, aligning people, motivating and inspiring, and producing change only where change is truly needed. Leadership is about careful evaluation and problem solving, fiscal responsibility, effectiveness, efficiency, honesty, trust, sense of humor, being able to admit you are wrong, and collaboration on all stakeholder levels. I believe that the "magic" of education begins when a teacher closes the door to the classroom and begins to teach. Leaders must appreciate all contributions, say "thank you" often, and create a culture of celebration making it real and fun --not pretentious or phony. Leaders do not achieve success by themselves and should acknowledge it by using the word "we" often. I love the phrase, "We did it!"