

## Keep Grinding and Stay Persistent

### *#Endure*

The most significant power all humans have is the power to control our mind and direct it toward whatever goal we want. When we inject positive energy into our dreams, they will be nurtured to fruition. They will blossom and grow until they are full of power and strength. It is essential to encourage students to hold on to their dreams, focus their minds on what they want to achieve, and create a plan to follow to see those dreams come true. However, we must first have a plan. The future is limitless but requires a plan of attack- a pathway to success. That pathway involves persistence. Persistence is probably one of the most admirable characteristics a person can possess.

When I look back on my past and accomplishments, the one common thread among all of my processes is persistence. I had to develop the ability to be determined and achieve my goal regardless of setbacks, irrespective of those failures. Persistence is a distinguishing attribute of those who succeed in life against the odds compared to those who do not. When we talk about the capacity to set goals, we must realize we all can set goals. When we were crawling, we got up and started walking; after we started walking, we soon started running. We set goals and have a plan for success; yet, even so, we must keep in mind that only a few people succeed. Do you know why? I believe that only a few people stick to the necessary work to accomplish a goal. You have to stick with it! That stick-to-itiveness is called persistence.

Many people stop before they even start, quit in the middle, or finish at the end. Sometimes three distinct pieces control us: difficulty, uncomfortableness, and uncertainty. Difficulty has been described as the quality or state of being too hard to do, deal with, or understand. Uncomfortableness happens when you are in a situation where things are unfamiliar, outside the norm, and unpredictable. Uncertainty is a state of doubt about the future or about what is the right thing to do. When doubts come in, they can terrorize you. They will prevent you from accomplishing your goal if you are not persistent. Keep in mind that you cannot allow your motivation to be zapped. To guard against having your inspiration zapped, you must have a plan that should have three simple steps.

***Step one***, focus your mind on what you want. You have to see the goal and see the end. If there is no vision, it will not happen. You have to write it down and make it tangible. Furthermore, you must know and believe you are worth it and understand your purpose. ***Step two***, write it down. Pen all of those desires in a manuscript. No matter how impossible they appear, you must write them down. Then you have to determine why. Once you ask yourself why you want this, you realize that this is the fuel for your motivation. ***Step three***, keep a positive attitude. The road to success is paved with booby traps and potholes. It is not a smooth road. It will be highly challenging, so only a few people will succeed.

In Halifax County Schools, we encourage students to *Strive For Five* daily. Striving is an action word meaning you have to get it. This concept is not only for our students but for our staff as well. Our administrators and teachers must be persistent in meeting growth and growing our scholars to proficiency. Life presents challenges, but we can accomplish anything if we keep grinding and stay persistent.