

Superintendent's Thoughts (March)
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After attending the National Conference on Education this past week my concerns on the future of public education have only been heightened. We have made everything so political that we can't have an open discussion on any topic. This article is not in support of any politician or political view. This aggressive and counterproductive attitude has manifested in an attack on the very fibers of our nation. The institutions that were once the backbone of our country and held in high esteem are now constantly attacked. These institutions include:

1. Political systems and our politicians
2. Judiciary system and judges
3. Public education and teachers
4. Law enforcement and police officers
5. Media of all sorts

There seems to be no confidence in any of these institutions. We all know there are some concerns with each but today when problems arise instead of fixing the problems we now want to tear down the institution. What are we as a nation and society going to get out of this constant negative attack? Civility and compromise seem to be exceptions to the rules of communication. Destroy the other sides at all cost is the battle cry from all points of view. We all have disagreements with the government, media, and even each other but we must learn to agree to disagree and move on. Our society is beset with many problems but all of them can be resolved if we work together and expend all of our energies towards a solution. Anything short of this is simply a waste of energies and resources.

Our public schools play a vital role in helping teach the basics of our political system, the laws that govern all of us, and how to communicate effectively harnessing the tremendous power of the media in all of its' forms. This has been true for hundreds of years and has served our country well. Schools and their role in our society has definitely changed from the purpose of sorting children from the times of Jefferson to the idea of educating the mass to attend college. We have evolved from the industrial era needing workers to operate the machines of our factories to the technology era needing thinkers and entrepreneurs. If schools are to play this role we need to invest in the liberal arts education that encourages innovation and thinking. We need to abandon this standardized testing fiasco and get back to learning for learning's sake. Help your child be a learner and not just a test taker. Our way of life depends on it. Your child's future depends on it. Don't let the world we live in tear down the institutions that provide the protections we need as citizens.