

Sandy -- The Gold Standard

Sandy, you once spoke before the board and used the expression "gold standard" when you referred to some training for teachers. That is an expression we could certainly use to describe you. You are the "gold standard" when it comes to teaching. Teaching isn't just a job for you. It is truly a profession. You represent everything that is noble in this career.

You make us all proud. Throughout your career you have never stopped improving your skills. Last summer you spent part of your vacation with math training, knowing that this would be your last year of teaching.

You never let yourself be in a rut. You have taught at every school in the district except Lexington. You've taught almost every grade level.

You have high expectations for yourself and your students. I don't think there is a better teacher of writing in the district.

You are a good friend with a loving and sensitive heart. You are easy to talk to and sensitive to others.

I think God had Sandy in mind when he created a formula for teachers. The formula goes something like this:

Sandy

- ***Inspires a thirst for knowledge,***
- ***Leads with a heart of compassion, encouragement, and patience,***
- ***Accepts challenges,***
- ***Sees potential, and***
- ***Believes the best in others.***

Sandy, you are the gold standard for teaching.

I end my speech with a wish for Sandy --

The fluted note of birdsong.

The intricate design

And haunting fragrance of a flower.

The glowing glory of a sunset,

The world aflame with things of eternal moment.