

## ***Dr. Smith's Philosophy of Education***

I believe that the primary function of education is to cultivate individuals that are intellectually adept, ethically grounded, and driven to be productive citizens. As educators, we all share in the responsibility; not too merely impart knowledge but to teach young men and women how to think critically and act responsibly. The teaching of the “whole” student including academics, athletics, character education, and social norms can only be accomplished in a give and take atmosphere where all learners are valued and learner centered instruction is prevalent.

As a teacher of children, we should endeavor to maintain an optimistic approach that places student interests first. I consider the modeling of this belief paramount in the success of any educational organization. In my estimation, the “students first” principle should manifest itself in the practice of caring about students enough to keep instruction central to everything we do. Quality instruction is the one gift we can offer that has the capacity to equip our students to participate in the *American Dream*.

I believe organizational achievement is a result of great teachers, aligned systems, a shared vision, and trust. I believe in a conservative approach to financial planning and high standards of accountability for all facets of the organization. It is my belief that these values are achieved through an equitable approach with all stakeholders grounded in a commitment to team building that is centered on integrity, small town values, hard work, and doing what is best for our students in all decisions.

We must deliberately insure that instructional systems are efficiently prioritized and effectively implemented across the district in order for students to be successful both academically and athletically. I consider the true spirit of education not to be defined by what we accomplish individually but rather by what we are able to collectively return to our students.

Let's teach our students well and commit ourselves, daily, to continuing the rich tradition of excellence in Wink-Loving ISD. *Go Wildcats!*