

## **Be a Super Hero: I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me**

Last week as I began my 15<sup>th</sup> year as an educator, my son began his last year in high school. I have to admit, my eyes filled with tears as we took that last first day of school picture! Later after the craziness of the first day of school, I took the time to reflect on life. Had we, as parents, taught him to put Christ first? Had we taught him to be strong, yet loving? Had we taught him to be resilient, but not careless? Had we taught him sufficiently the very important positive "self-talk" to be confident, creative, disciplined, and driven so as to set goals and accomplish them? These are all questions parents dwell on throughout their children's lives.

In my role as principal, I realized these virtues or super powers can only be taught through a lifetime of love, support, and encouragement. Life skills are taught during failures, corrections, and through difficult times. As parents, we so desire to raise our children, who we love unconditionally, in a bubble where nothing harms them and hurts are not felt. Sadly, this is not reality. No child is perfect. No parent is perfect. We are all simple human beings trying to get through life. As a parent, I encourage you to let your child fail or have a disagreement with another child, and then let him/her determine how to fix things. You can help your child in the problem solving, but do not fix the issues. A letter B or C in a class is not the end of the world in elementary school. However, a lower grade than expected may spur a child to do better. We have all encountered difficulties, struggles, heartbreak, and tears and have lived through it. It is through these times, we build self-talk and value within ourselves to help us determine who we are and what we value. Help your child become the person Christ so wants him/her to be by being the guider and nurturer.

I wish you the same joyous knowledge I recognized while reflecting on my son's journey so far.....although I have not been a perfect parent, I am proud of all of my son's hard work and his faith in God and I know a parent's job is never completely done! I will continue to help him grow as an amazing, hard-working, creative, resilient, and strong person! May God bless us all in this pivotal vocation as a parent. May we all build on our super powers this year!