THRIVE THROUGH THE FIVE

TASA / TASB txEDCON
October 1, 2020

Dr. Jill Siler
Gunter ISD Superintendent

LEADER | AUTHOR | SPEAKER
JILLMSILER.COM
WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR WORK?
• the tragedy that impacts the school community
• the aftermath when any human in the building makes a poor choice
• the aftermath when we as leaders make a poor choice
• the negative viral social media post about something that happened at school
• the unavailability of funds to provide everything our awesome staff deserves
• the inability to defend ourselves in situations
• the pressure we face when we have to go on camera or on stage
• the weight of people’s livelihoods resting on our decision-making and leadership
Understand that the feeling of being overwhelmed, and even inadequate, is part of the growing process and not a sign that you’re not the person for the job.

-Jill M Siler
WHAT HELPS YOU THRIVE THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES?

[QR Code]

padlet
THrive Through the Five

- Underlying Factors: Failure & Fear
- Internal Strategies: Balance & Self-Care
- External Strategies: Decision-Making
Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

- Theodore Roosevelt
Failure is Part of It

Failure is Where Learning and Growth Happen

Failure is only Part of the Story

The Line to Success is not Straight

Success

Learning and growth happen in the midst of failure - but only if we let it

Sketchnote by Amelia Buhannan @eetech_amelia
Failure is part of it

- Failure is part of it
- Embrace it

IF WE TRULY WANT TO BE THE BEST VERSION OF OURSELVES, THAT GROWTH DOES NOT COME WITHOUT RISK AND FAILURE. FAILURE IS NOT SOMETHING WE JUST ENDURE, IT IS THE THING THAT CAN MAKE US GREAT.
The trajectory is ours

Success

Just because you are not moving in a seamless, straight trajectory you had anticipated or hoped for, it doesn’t mean that you are not ready or equipped to be successful in your next steps.

Sketchnote by Amelia Buharah
@tech_amelia
SOMETIMES PLACES LIKE FAILURE, FEAR AND FAITH ARE THE VERY PLACES FROM WHICH GREATNESS, HOPE, AND SUCCESS ARE BORN

- JILL M SILER
- Failure can always teach
- The difference is how we respond

THE NEXT TIME YOU FAIL
TAKE A SECOND TO GRIEVE YOUR EGO.
AND THEN GET OUT THERE & TRY AGAIN.
FAILURE IS AN EVENT, NOT A SENTENCE
Learning and growth happen in the midst of failure - but only if we let them.

- Jill M Siler

What are you better at now than 6mos ago?
“Failure is an imperfect word because, if you take the time and have the patience to learn from your failures, then they aren’t failures any longer—they’re lessons.”

- Brene Brown
WE ARE DEFINED BY OUR FAILURES ONLY IF WE LET OURSELVES BE. FAIL. LEARN FROM IT. BE BETTER.

-Jill M Siler
There is a major difference between failure and fear. Failure happens but it is finite. Fear can be ever-present. It can be paralyzing.
“How Do I Get Rid of the Fear?”

Alas, this is the wrong question.

The only way to get rid of the fear is to stop doing things that might not work, to stop putting yourself out there, to stop doing work that matters.

No, the right question is, "How do I dance with the fear?"

Fear is not the enemy. Paralysis is the enemy.
The goal isn’t to eradicate fear. The goal is to lead through it anyway.
WHEN WE ARE BOLD, WHEN WE CHOOSE ACTION IN THE MIDST OF FEAR, WHEN WE LEAD ANYWAY, THAT COURAGE IS THE BIRTH OF GREATNESS.

- Jill M Siler
Care for Yourself First

The real trick isn’t to figure out how to become a ‘master juggler’, but to realize that you can only gracefully manage so much before your life feels like a circus.

Joelle Jay

Balance Does Not Happen In a Day

Balance as Emotional Preoccupation

First Things First

Give Yourself Grace

Find a Support Network

Balance Schedules

Balance

a sense of balance

hours you work + hours you dwell in work

Family First

Make Your Yes’s Count

Save for highest priorities

Sketchnote by Amelia Buhannah
@etech_amelia
- Look at the big picture
- Understand the seasons
- Create a schedule
Balance does not happen in a day. The goal is not for Monday to be perfectly balanced. The goal is for your life to have a sense of balance.

- Jill M. Siler
Balance isn’t about physical location as much as it is emotional preoccupation.

Sometimes balance is less about the hours you work and more about the hours you dwell.
- Balance starts with the leader
- We must find respite
- Find an outlet

**PART OF FINDING BALANCE IS TAKING RESPITE.**

**AS LEADERS, SOMETIMES WE NEED TO STEP AWAY TO BETTER SEE HOW TO MOVE OURSELVES AND OUR ORGANIZATIONS FORWARD.**
You have to decide what your highest priorities are and have the courage—pleasantly, smilingly, nonapologetically, to say “no” to other things. And the way you do that is by having a bigger “yes” burning inside. The enemy of the “best” is often the “good.”

- Stephen Covey

“When you say no, you are only saying no to one option. When you say yes, you are saying no to every other option. No is a choice. Yes is a responsibility.”

- James Clear
- Give your family a voice
- Give yourself grace
- Make moves that make sense for you
- Find your support network

Sometimes balance isn’t about whether or not you can or should do the job. Sometimes it is about finding the right job in the context that will work with your life.
What is **ONE** thing that is resonating with you?

Or what is one thing you would **add** to this conversation on **balance and self-care**?
Our Actions Matter

The Best Solution is Better than Your Solution

Gain the Best Perspective

Don’t Avoid Problems

Lead Your Best Way

Hard personal conversations
Student Mental Health
Global Pandemic
School closure decisions
Contentious parent meetings
Student safety

Remember to Lead

Hindsight is 20/20
LEARNING TOOL FOR THE FUTURE

As leaders, we are the decisive element in the cultures we create, the relationships we build and the decisions we make.
The Best Solution is Better than Your Solution

- The truth about “black and white”
- The gift of time and space

When confronted with something messy, don’t go for the quick solution. Try to understand the situation from every angle and lead toward the best solution.
There is no greater tool to de-escalate emotions when confronted with someone who is upset than to truly try to see and understand their perspective.

- The power of listening
- The test of criticism
Don’t Avoid Problems

- The urge to avoid
- The need to own it

DON’T DELEGATE AWAY SOMETHING THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO LEAD THROUGH.

OWN IT AND LEAD THROUGH IT.
Hindsight may be 20/20, but we operate in the present.

Use hindsight as a learning tool for the future

But not as a weapon against yourself.

- The difference between leading and responding
- The challenge of vision
THE TWELVE MOST IMPORTANT INCHES IN LEADERSHIP ARE THOSE BETWEEN YOUR HEAD AND YOUR HEART.

- Jill M Siler
IF YOU’RE NOT THRIVING NOW...
WHAT IS ONE STEP YOU COULD TAKE TOWARDS THAT END?
BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT WHAT COULD BE IN YOUR LIFE AND BE BOLD ENOUGH TO START TAKING STEPS TOWARDS THAT END.

- Jill M Siler