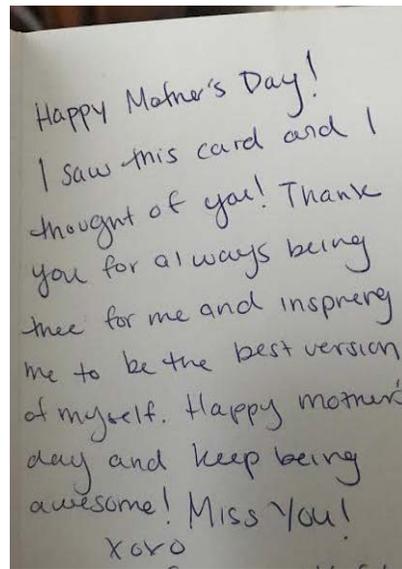
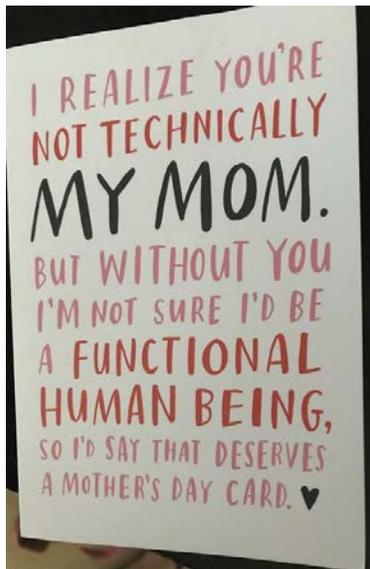


Honor Your Impact. This is the theme for the 2018-2019 school year at Fairhaven High School. The concept comes from the book *Culturize: Every Student. Every Day. Whatever It Takes*, written by Jimmy Casas. When searching for the perfect theme to continue to move our community forward with high expectations for all and a fundamental core belief that all students and faculty share responsibility in creating a school culture built on excellence, three words stood out to our administrative team. **Honor Your Impact.**

What does it mean to honor your impact you ask? It means that your actions make a difference. That YOU make a difference. **Honor this.** As teachers, we entered our profession for the opportunity to make a difference for students, families, and the community. **Honor this.** All students deserve the very best of us. They are the reason that we are in this profession after all. **Honor this.** Students and teachers can influence one another in many of the same ways. **Honor this.**

To describe what it means to me to **Honor Your Impact**, I offer a personal story of a former student that has forever influenced my work and my life. During my second round interview for Assistant Principal, I was asked by Mrs. Kohler to reflect on what inspired me. Without hesitation, I stated, “a really good human being” inspires me. “Someone who doesn’t judge, who has the ability to make you feel special, and takes the time to point out your importance in this world.” The answer came easily because I was describing a student of mine whose kind heart and ability to see the good in others consistently pushed me to be the best that I could be. I never wanted to disappoint her. For me, she is the epitome of who I wanted to become. Yes, I wanted to be more like my student. She inspired me and still does. I would see her in the halls saying hello to the student that everyone else seemed to pass by without noticing. I would see her go out of her way to help others, even when they did not ask for help. I could see her good intentions in her every move. The impact that she had on my life is greater than I think she may ever know. I hope to honor her impact by striving to model her “really good human” character traits at work, at home, and in the world. It is my hope as an educator to inspire others to aspire to do the same.

When I received a card from this student on Mother’s Day this past year, I was ecstatic. The student that pushed me to be my best sent me a card to recognize that I pushed her to be her best. She sent the card from her college dorm room...where she chose to honor my impact.



THIS. THIS CARD. This card says it all. It demonstrates the powerful effect teachers have on students and students have on teachers.

As we enter into the new school year, this theme is already proving to be the right choice for us. Many students have reached out to share the impact that our faculty has had on them. One student reflected that her teachers believed in her more than she believed in herself and that they would remind her to “think smarter, not harder.” She also added that without them she feels she would not be a junior. Another student stated that her teachers were the reason she was excited to get up everyday and go to school. Students shared stories of how our teachers are relentless in the pursuit to help students understand the material and be at their very best. One student shared that our teachers never gave up on him, even when he wanted to give up on himself.

Honor your impact this year. Know that whether you are a student, teacher, parent, coach, bus driver, paraprofessional, classmate, or teammate, **YOU MATTER.**