

## ***From the desk of Superintendent Michelle Jensen***

*Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.* Marian Wright Edelman

In March 2007, over 200 leaders of business, economic development and chambers of commerce representatives came together from across Wisconsin to attend the Business Summit on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. The summit, hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the PK-16 Leadership Council and Competitive Wisconsin, Inc., asked attendees what knowledge and skills high school graduates should develop to be prepared to enter the world of work. Business leaders most often cited learning, thinking and life skills. They also stressed an emphasis on:

- critical thinking and problem-solving,
- collaborative communication skills,
- people skills,
- contextual learning skills,
- personal responsibility,
- ethics, and
- adaptability

During recent weeks, there has been a great deal of conversation in regard to the behavior guidelines high school/middle school students are expected to follow during the school day or while attending school related functions. These guidelines have come from board policy, administrative procedure, or as a result of safety and security issues within the building. While the behavior guidelines are standard, the enforcement of these guidelines has been emphasized this year. We are asking students to take personal responsibility for their behaviors as we continue to address repeated vandalism and theft occurrences which are costly to the district. We do believe that students should be practicing a positive work ethic by being punctual for classes, reliable and accountable. We do want students to understand the importance of collaboration and adaptability by working appropriately with others and acting responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind.

Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments also requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing leadership and responsibility at school, work and within our community.