

# All a Teacher Wants for the New Year

By Gail Malay

Superintendent, Lake Havasu Unified School District #1

Our teachers are so important; each and every school day they are hard at work building our future. What they need and want for the New Year is involved students and families.

Learning takes commitment and work. We need our students to come to school prepared to learn. That means showing up on time, with homework done and an attitude for learning and participation. Students who understand you will get out of something exactly what you put in do much better than those students who do not understand this concept.



Gail Malay

Recently two high school seniors were honored for the perfect score they received on their SATs in writing. These are students who clearly understand their responsibility in the learning process. When students do their part, they achieve.

Families, you are the first and most important teacher your child (no matter their age) has. Setting the value of education and lifelong learning is critical for this generation of students. We are educating young people that will be entering a world that is changing at an ever accelerating pace. Lifelong learning is the best way to cope with a world that is constantly changing.

Recently, I sat in on two parent

conferences that demonstrated that some families are overwhelmed. I know life can sometimes be overwhelming...the best way to cope when this happens is to really focus and prioritize. We are modeling for the next generation how to handle stress and change. Stress and change are part of living in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Successful people take responsibility for their lives. Modeling responsibility is an important part of developing independent, successful young people. Steven Covey has researched and written a book about what successful people know and are able to do. If you have not read, [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#), I would recommend it.

As we begin a new year, let's work together to help our young to become successful. Albert Einstein observed, "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." In the school district we are constantly examining our thinking and making sure we are open to and using best practices.

For the New Year...teachers want students who appreciate them and cooperative in the learning process. Teachers also want parents who support education and hold their children accountable. We believe that together we can educate this generation for success.