

12 Mission Maintenance

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Weekly Focus

As we head into December, it's time to pause and reflect on our personal mission statements. Just as we maintain cars or homes to keep them running smoothly, maintaining our mission keeps us aligned with our purpose, focused on our goals, and ready to finish the semester strong. This mission connects to Norwalk's goals of growing learners and leaders by encouraging reflection and intentionality, which are essential for being self-aware, connected, and strategic—a few of our Portrait of a Learner attributes.

The Story

Think of a time when your passion for teaching burned the brightest. Maybe it was a moment when you saw a struggling student grasp a concept for the first time, or when you worked with colleagues to create something transformative for your school community. That spark came from your mission—a sense of why you chose this path and what keeps you here. As we enter the busy final stretch of the semester, it's easy to get caught up in the "to-dos" and lose sight of the "why." This week's mission challenges us to reconnect with that fire, realign our daily actions with our purpose, and refuel for the road ahead.

Procedures

1. **Reflect on Your Mission Statement:** Spend 10–15 minutes this week revisiting your personal mission. Use the following questions:
 - What brought you into education, and what keeps you here?
 - How have you lived out your mission so far this school year?
 - What challenges or opportunities lie ahead, and how can your mission guide you?
 2. **Write or Revise Your Mission:** If you haven't written one yet, start now! Keep it concise, meaningful, and actionable.
 3. **Connect Your Mission to Your Work:** Identify one way you can live out your mission in the classroom or your professional interactions this week.
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Tips or Steps for Implementation

- **Share Your Mission:** Discuss your mission with a colleague, your students, or even in your Warrior Time. Hearing how others live their mission can inspire new ideas.

- **Create a Visual Reminder:** In addition to posting your mission on your door, write your mission on a sticky note or in a visible space to keep it front of mind. I have mine printed out and taped next to my laptop trackpad.
 - **Reflect in a Journal:** At the end of each day, jot down how you aligned your actions with your mission.
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The Challenge

This week, I challenge you to choose one action that brings your mission to life in your role as an educator. For example:

- If your mission includes building connections, make time for one meaningful conversation with a student or colleague.
- If your mission emphasizes growth, try something new in your teaching practice that stretches your comfort zone.

Feel free to share your mission or this week's reflections with me or your team—I'm interested in hearing how you're making your mission matter.

Let's finish this semester strong, Warriors!

Onward, Norwalk!