

Returning To School

By Dr. R. Pletsch



Now that most of our Illinois students are back in class, I'll share what some people, not from our area, told me. I recently had conversations with high school students from Central Illinois. These students were grateful to be back and grateful that their area union was not like some others. They felt some unions were more interested in politics than their success in college.

They also admitted that for the at-home learning they did not put in enough time to make it truly profitable. They agreed they did little work compared to a regular year and seldom used the teacher--except in Math.

I also met with a group of parents that home-schooled their children. They mentioned the same things that we hear from home-schoolers in our community. Their big worry was the new curriculum proposed by "progressives" like Critical Race Theory and changes to the sex ed curriculum. These parents seemed well informed and confident, which, as I see it, will help them be successful.

I also had conversations with a member of a School Board and a few principals from the far Southwest suburbs. They seem to agree that the schools will have to be in session for a while to see what they have to do to make it work and not try to make their particular concept prove to be the best.

These people, who like you and I, have been affected by the pandemic. Many people over the last year have developed very strong opinions. These tend to be very personal. While it should be expected, those who are successful are not always of different opinions. I try to remind that one of my core beliefs is that parents should take as much control as they can because most have the innate ability to make good judgments for their family.

Parent Patrol

The School Safety Patrol in McKinley Park is looking to expand their presence. They are looking for responsible adults to volunteer for at least one session, either morning or after school of about a half hour per session. The patrol observes the activities around the schools to help serve as a deterrent to activities in non-safe situations. They also help reduce traffic around the schools.

Interested? Please stop at Evergreen Academy, 3537 S. Paulina or Nathanael Greene School, 3525 S. Honore, to obtain an application. You can help the safety of our community.