



LEONARD BRAUTIGAM CENTER

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Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District

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Principal

Susan Calda
Director of Instruction

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Colette Maxwell
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Coordinator

Brenda Bond
Counselor

Ronald Davidson
Administrative
Helping Teacher

Dear Chad,

I want to thank you from my heart for spending time with us August 19, 2021. You shared your amazingly purposeful and powerful message which had immense impact on the Brautigam Center staff!

I will never forget the first time I heard you speak several years ago. You were invited to speak to all district and campus leaders of Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District in northwest Houston. At that event, you shared, with intense emotional detail, the conversation you had with your father when you first emerged from surgery after the life-altering accident that rendered you a quadriplegic.

Your dad had asked your wife, Shondell, if he could be the first person to speak to you after you were aware of your new reality. As soon as I heard that, I knew you were made from truly courageous genetic stock! What an awe-inspiring dad you have! You are clearly following in his footsteps in a most remarkable way! In your speech to us those years ago, you shared that your dad bluntly told you that *it was NOT about YOU! It was about your wife... it was about your children... it was about your future as a family!* You were angry, but you ultimately heard your dad's message ...and it guided your pathway forward!

Those words have so defined my principalship and the message I have been sending forward to my staff for several years. *It is not about US as a campus staff... it is about our students and what they need day to day to meet their future successfully!*

For that reason, I wanted to bring you to speak to my campus staff this past August. Brautigam Center staff members work with at-risk students every day with mission-minded purpose! We entitled the event with you, "A Chat With Chad: Overcoming Obstacles and Embracing Change." You addressed our staff with superb professionalism, student focus, and heartfelt humor!

We cannot thank you enough for how you energized our staff to welcome our students back after a year and a half of COVID-19 separation from them. We have so very much missed their energy and happy noise!

Thank you, Chad, for being Brautigam Center's newest best friend!

Warmest Hugs!

♥ Martha

Martha Strother, Principal

"Whatever It Takes"