

# **THIS IS ONEIDA THOUGHTS FROM A 25-YEAR OBI SERVANT**

*By Connie Belcher, OBI Assistant Principal*

I am an assistant principal so that I can teach the students to know Jesus by example of tough love, so I can see the Bible translated, so that I can realize that every interruption is an opportunity . . . so that I can hear how to sing praise songs to the LORD . . . so that I can discover other languages . . . the language of students playing.

I am an assistant principal so that I can call maintenance about a broken pencil sharpener only to find out a pencil lead was stuck in the sharpener. . . so that I can console the students of the losing team . . . so that I can learn to mend broken hearts and broken dreams . . . so that I can console teachers and help them love the students more . . . so that I can go without sleep when I can't seem to understand why the student comes with the baggage that they did . . . so that I can be the first one to pat that proud student on the back because they overcame a difficult situation . . . so that I can learn how to face heartache and trust in the LORD. . .

I am an assistant principal so that I can be the first to notice the need for students to bring paper and writing utensils to class . . . so that I can lose sleep waiting for the student to realize that all they need is to apologize . . . so that I can laugh at a joke for the umpteenth time . . . so that I can learn bravery by pulling things out of their lockers . . . so that I can see that smile when I remember their name and they weren't in trouble . . . so that I can learn to be a good sport about competition . . . so that I can assure you that it is okay to have emotions . . . so that I can see myself younger over and over again.

I am an assistant principal so I can learn to be the "role model" in the student's life . . . so that I can learn to say good bye and have a good day. . . so that I can anticipate the coming of a new day to work with them . . . so that when a student leaves a note saying thanks for showing up every day, you're the only one in my life who has, I'm glad I didn't call in sick.

I am an assistant principal because I know with God's help I will help nurture a unique wonderful human being. I received lessons on trust, forgiveness and unconditional acceptance so that I can anticipate with you going to high school, college or the work force, and the expectancy is greater than I have ever known . . . so that I will live with the knowledge, of investing in another life that helps make the world a better, brighter place.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.  
OBI President**

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