The Difference is YOU

By: Jason Harmon

Have you ever wondered what you can do to improve our school and community? While it is easy to sit back and place the blame on others, WE are responsible for our own lives and families, and ultimately our school and community. Sure, we can blame our past, our job, our lack of education, our ignorance, our addictions, our school and community leaders, but what does that do? We end up complaining and wishing things were different and nothing happens. Community members of Guernsey-Sunrise schools, it is time for us to wake up and realize our true potential. Your ideas, voice, and efforts matter. We have such a wonderful school and community, but what can we do to become great?

While my purpose in writing this article isn’t to answer that question for you, I hope to wake up in all of us that desire to be and do a little bit more. Currently I have been taking a class on Leadership. It is so easy to judge and place blame on a leader for all of our problems. I’m sure we’ve all heard or thought, “if only the President would \_\_\_\_\_\_, or if only the Governor would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. While being active in government and voting for our leaders is so important, my plea today is for you to understand that the difference in this community is YOU.

Ironically the most impactful thing I’ve learned in my class on leadership is how important it is to be a good follower. Our school and community leadership needs good followers that possess important qualities and attributes. We need **self-motivated** **individuals** who give of their time to make a difference. This difference starts within our families and our own sphere of influence (our coworkers and friends) and grows from there. We need to **communicate** well with each other and with our leaders about what is really important to us. We need **teamwork** as we dedicate ourselves to making our school and community great. We also need **continual** **personal development.** Just as we want our leaders to be committed to expanding their leadership skills, we need to develop ourselves and become men and women of honesty, integrity, and be willing to make a stand for what is right. Our personal weaknesses can become strengths as we help and support each other.

I know that united we can impact lives. We can create and sustain a culture of unity as we work for the common good. We are on the right track. How awesome it is to see people rally together to support those in need. Lets be weary of getting complacent and feeling like we are good enough. Lets become the best we can be and help each other and our leaders reach for greater heights. I know our school board, administrators, teachers, parents, and community want the best school for our children, and honestly they deserve the best. As the saying goes it takes a village to raise a child. Never underestimate the power of your own personal influence. Your voice will be heard. Remember, the difference is YOU.