

It is hard to believe that the printing of this article finds our district between the Thanksgiving Break and the Holiday Season. This school year has flown by, and the 1st semester of the 2016-2017 school year will come to a close in three weeks. Although we live in a fast-paced world, we need to take the time to appreciate those around us.

As we give thanks for what we have and look forward to the Holiday Season, I believe it is important that we reflect on the nation around us. Society continues to change at a remarkable rate and continues to adjust to new technologies and means of communication. Our minds become overwhelmed by the massive amounts of information that are streamed to us through social media, websites, television, and other avenues. The massive amounts of information that can be produced and distributed in seconds have changed what we do with information. We have moved away from reading the daily or weekly paper from front to back to becoming headline readers. The issue with reading only the headlines is that we miss all the valuable information that follows. Deciphering correct information has also become more difficult as false media outlets, via the web, have become profitable business.

Listening to students talk and discuss politics, news, and the world around them has been very interesting the past few months. In their social studies classes, they have been learning to obtain information from multiple media outlets to learn to recognize biases, slants, and different angles played by the sources in which the information comes from. They have been discussing ethics, values, and principles and how ethics, values, and principles apply to the distribution of information.

Modern technology is a valuable asset. With each day, it makes our lives easier and more efficient, but it also comes with responsibilities. As a school district, we need to teach students to research the information they hear and teach them to seek correct and reliable information, so they are accurately informed. As adults, we need to take the responsibility to be mindful of the information we receive and delve deeper into that information. Simply reading a headline does nothing for us and further clouds our ability to receive accurate information. In addition, we must understand that when we provide inaccuracies to others, those inaccuracies are magnified more than ever before.

People are often reactionary to the changes that are made within society. It takes us a while to adjust and become comfortable with those changes. Throughout change, we must fall back to the foundational value of respecting others. The world will continue to evolve and we will continue to adjust, but we need to take the time to enjoy the simple things and take a step back from the constant hustle of modern society. The holiday season tends to bring out the best in all of us, and this is a great time to return to our foundational values. Go Bison!!!

