



“O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” Isaiah 64:8

Within the next few weeks, there will be excited children, parents, teachers, staff, and volunteers filling the halls of our schools in the Northern Illinois District. Some will return very familiar with the surroundings and routine. Others will hesitate because they are new and unsure. Yet, everyone walking down those halls is a child, called by God to learn and grow in Him. In our schools and churches, the message of Jesus’ forgiveness holds us together. That makes us unique and filled with power.

Many years ago, this poem was shared with me and it applies to the beginning of a brand new, exciting school year as school and home work together:

Two Sculptors

I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child’s mind and they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools she used were books, music, and art.
One, a parent who worked with a guiding hand and gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled with touch that was deft and sure
While the parent labored by their side and polished and smoothed it o’er.
And when at last their task was done, they were proud of what they had wrought;
For the things they had molded into the child could neither be sold or bought.
And each agreed they would have failed if they had worked alone,
For behind the teacher stood the school, and behind the parent, the home.

Dear Father in heaven, as the new school year begins, please bless all stakeholders as they place their trust, confidence, and faith in You. Lead them in the training of the precious children. May they focus on Proverbs 22:6 “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” Jesus is perfect for us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Discussion Questions-

1. Have your students create themselves from a clump of clay. How will that turn out?
2. How will your school focus on “Real Present God” this year?