



Western Line SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Lawrence M. Hudson, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Education

“Committed to Excellence in Education”
O’Bannon - Riverside

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April 20, 2023

Mr. Dean Sikes
You Matter
P.O. Box 8915
Chattanooga, TN 37414

Dear Mr. Sikes,

Thank you for your presence in the Western Line School District on April 12, 2023. You were able to touch so many of my staff and students’ lives during your four assembly programs at Riverside Junior/Senior High School, as well as O’Bannon Junior/Senior High School. The message you delivered on forgiveness, acceptance, and admittance left my school community with hope, because they understood just how much they still matter.

These type of programs are much needed in schools today because of the devastating effects of COVID on our communities. Our schools are now faced with the impact of social and emotional vulnerabilities of our students and their mental health struggles that have risen to the surface. These are the two biggest factors contributing to learning loss and poor school performance as we attempt to move to pre-pandemic academic levels. Your message to students, “YOU MATTER” has restored purpose back into the lives of many of our students.

I would highly recommend school districts across the nation to take advantage of opportunities to host speakers such as Dean Sikes, to reach our students who are struggling with things outside of the classroom that affects their ability to focus and excel academically.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Hudson, Ph.D.
Superintendent, WLSA