

Ethics, Integrity and You

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SAMPLE

From the Editor's Point of View

Welcome to a new school year! If you are anything like I was when I was still actively in the classroom and central office, the start of the year made me excited, nervous, and a little giddy. Because every new year was filled with promise. New adventures still do that for me.

As you prepared to go back to work, you probably did some shopping. You visited your favorite national chain store. You probably bought shoes at a store that always offers you reliable options. Then you may have stopped at one of those big box stores. Did you get good customer service at all of the stores or even at one of them?

We all know good customer service when we receive it. We can also quickly identify bad customer service. It's safe to say if we were given a choice, we'd all like to receive good customer service all the time. Our mutual fondness for quality service leads to one question...do you give good customer service?

Your customers base may not all be the same. Some of us serve students and their parents. Others of us serve co-workers, trustees, and members of the public at large. We should give each member of our customer group the respect, spirit of excellence and valuable experience we expect when we shop. It's good for them and for us.

Have a super year that is filled with outstanding customer service!

Until next time.

Charlene C. Burroughs, Editor
Vice President and Talent Developer
School House Excellence

Ethics in the Headlines

The Wall Street Journal reports that more school districts are buying active shooter insurance policies to avoid litigation and to offset the cost of counseling services, security and crisis management.

Everyday Ethics

The PTA at your school wants to use the district tax ID number so that purchases for materials for the school can be made tax free. The PTA has not registered with the IRS as a non-profit organization because no one knows how to complete the paperwork. What should you do?

1. Give them the district tax ID number since they make purchases for the school.
2. Tell the PTA president the number, but keep it quiet since they are not supposed to have it. Tell them to only use it for purchases going to the school.
3. Tell them that they are not allowed to use the number, but offer to have them give you the money when they want to buy products and you will make the purchases for them tax free.
4. Tell them that they are not allowed to use the district tax ID number.

See the bottom of this column for the answer

Past and Present Thinking

There is not pillow so soft as a clear conscience.

A French Proverb

The answer is number 4: The PTA, Booster Club or any parent or alumni organizations are not allowed to use the District's tax identification number; the organization should provide its own tax identification number to vendors for tax-exempt purchases