

Good Morning!

I'm Caleb Clark, and I feel like I've said that a lot more this week than ever before. I have the honor of being able to celebrate a much-needed addition to the Bethel School District with you today.

The Willamette CTE building represents the expansion of and dedication to bold initiatives that have solidly engrained themselves in our priorities. Its existence is a testament to the importance we, as a community, and as a district, place in hands-on learning, outside-the-box thinking, and belief in oneself through growing in our own experiences.

There is something I tell my kids, and employees when they are struggling with something:

Perfect practice makes perfect.

Perfect practice is an important distinction to the mostly incorrect well known phrase.

Imperfect practice will never make perfect

Wrong practice will never make perfect

Misguided practice will never make perfect

As a boss and father, when I explain this, I'm inherently giving my child or apprentice permission to fail, and fail again. I'm making sure they know that they must master the parts of the whole before they can make the progress they are looking for. I'm making sure they know that they won't get it right away, and nobody expects them to, so they shouldn't expect it of themselves.

Superintendent Sproles likes to sum this up with the phrase "failing forward", which I love.

But one thing about the phrase "perfect practice makes perfect" is the inherent option NOT to be perfect. In anything, it's ok to pursue something less than perfection. It's perfectly acceptable to pursue a cursory knowledge of many things in the pursuit of passion.

This is the key foundation of the philosophy of Bethel. We provide the options, we provide the pathways, as many as we can, to the best of our ability, and while we fail forward into realizing the best way "To create relevant, responsive, and joyful learning communities where all students thrive." the people of Bethel support us.

Welcome to the new Willamette Vocational Education Building, a 2020 Bethel Bond Project!