

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Monday marks the start of American Education Week, held annually the week preceding Thanksgiving.



The National Education Association and the American Legion created the observance in 1921 in an effort to promote the benefits of public education.

This promotion was intended to address the 25 percent of World War I draftees who were illiterate.

The NEA's resolution called for "An educational week ... observed in all communities annually for the purpose of informing the public of the accomplishments and needs of the public schools and to secure the cooperation and support of the public in meeting those needs" (www.nea.org/grants/61038.htm).

Nearly 100 years later, the week continues to be promoted by the NEA with a theme – this year's is Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility – and a toolbox of activity ideas available at www.nea.org/grants/64407.htm.

What I think is important about public education, each and every week, is that all of us in the field is an educator, even if you're not a teacher. Anyone who works in schools and has a positive effect on student lives is an educator.

And educators are not only teachers.

They are role models, counselors, confidants, coaches, supporters/cheerleaders and advisors.

Those of us who have chosen education as our

Nov. 10, 2017



American Education Week 2017 November 13-17
Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
13 Kickoff Day Celebrate excellence in education by hosting events and activities.	14 Parents Day Invite parents and family members to school for a first-hand look at a typical school day.	15 Education Support Professionals Day Recognize paraprofessionals, bus drivers, food service workers, maintenance staff and all other ESSPs who meet the needs of the whole student.	16 Educator for a Day Encourage elected officials and community leaders to serve as "educators for a day" for a hands-on school experience.	17 Substitute Educators Day Honor and celebrate educators who are called on to substitute for regular classroom teachers in their absence for their services.

#aew2017 | www.nea.org/aew 

vocation should never take our jobs lightly. But, at the same time we should not take ourselves too seriously. We must have fun in what we do and take pride in shaping tomorrow's leaders.

It's also important to remember that for far too many young people, being at school may be the only stable part of the day. Some students rely on the school day to provide up to two meals a day and the security of knowing they have people who are there for them.

That is a breathtaking responsibility and one in which all educators can take pride.

For printables, activity ideas and to access a toolkit, go to www.nea.org/grants/19823.htm.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org.

