

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

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A few weeks ago, about 50 students from Pickaway County schools took part in an annual leadership conference.

The guest speaker was Theresa Butts, physical education teacher at Westfall Middle School and varsity girls track coach and athletic trainer at Westfall High School.



Known affectionately as Miss T to all, her presentation resonated with students and adults alike.



Theresa Butts addressed students during the annual leadership conference.

Encouraging but with a healthy dose of realism, Miss T let the leaders of tomorrow know that accomplishments do not come without setbacks.

“You have the ability to change the world,” she told them. “You will make mistakes along the way, but learn from them.

“Successful people often make mistakes, but they are successful because they keep going and trying,” she said.

As leaders, it's important to remember about service to others, she said.

“A sure way to make a bad day into a good day is to help someone else. When you make a positive difference in someone's life you create a ripple and hopefully they do the same for someone else and you will feel better.”

Miss T also reminded students about how important having a positive attitude can be and how it can lead to successes.

She compared growing a positive attitude to growing a garden, explaining that outside influences help grow a positive attitude. For example, family members care and support them and friends and teachers influence good thoughts. All of these elements work toward growing the garden.

Conversely, she said, negative influences act as weeds in the garden and must be kept out.

“If you allow them to take hold and don't weed them out they can cause your positive influences to be choked out and you won't achieve all that you can.”

Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.

