Just the Facts

Education

Family systems that support school success
- Relationship and time with parent(s)
- Meals/nutrition – healthy breakfast, families eating meals together
- Responsibilities within the household
- Schedule – a schedule that is flexible but frames priorities including the following:
  - Reading, homework and quiet time
  - Play/active time

Things that make a difference
- Number and availability of books
- Varied outings and experiences
- Limited or monitored media/electronic use

Community systems that support schools success
- Interesting, meaningful and diverse service opportunities
- Quality before and after school programs and/or other youth programs

School systems that make a difference (taken from Marc Tucker, president of the National Center on Education and The Economy in Washington, D.C., *Benchmarking the World’s Best*, *School Administrator*, September, 2012)
- Start benchmarking and never stop.
- Implement strong, coherent and aligned instructional systems.
- Recruit and retain teachers from the top third of high school graduates.
- Put more money behind students who are harder to get to high standards.
- Ensure you have an effective system, not just a collection of parts and pieces.

Public Attitudes (taken from the 2012 PDK/Gallup Poll)
Three of four Americans think the common core standards will provide more consistency in the quality of education. Half believe common core standards will improve public education, Lack of funding was most commonly cited as the biggest challenge facing their schools. Almost all parents believe their children will graduate from high school. 90 percent of parents believe schools are safe places for students. 97 percent believe it is very or somewhat important to improve the nation’s public schools. 48 percent of parents would give their local public schools and A or B. Only 19 percent would give those grades to public schools nationally. Almost one of two American adults said they had been bullied by another student when they were in school. Three of four Americans believe that bullying prevention should be part of a school’s curriculum.

Build character and banish bullying

**Home and Family**
- Model respectful behaviors toward others.
- Create an environment in which family members feel safe and are respected when sharing experiences and emotions.
- Foster empathy in children.
- Provide opportunities for children to control appropriate areas of their lives and environments.
- Carefully consider when and what parental intervention is helpful, healthy or required.
- Help children develop skills to advocate for themselves in peaceful and productive ways.
- Establish a zero tolerance position related to bullying behaviors including those considered part of play, discipline or humor.
- Be in tune with signs that a family member is bullying or being bullied.

**Classroom** (adapted from *How to Bullyproof Your Classroom* by Caltha Crowe).
- Recognize and stop [negative] gateway behaviors as soon as they start.
- Build a caring classroom community that includes empathy, accountability, and the ability for students to advocate for themselves.
- Create rules and parameters that will help prevent bullying.
- Talk candidly with children about the causes and effects of bullying.
- Engage parents in your anti-bullying and confidence building culture.

**The Economy**

**Minnesota might**
- Household income $57,520 adjusted for inflation (up from $53,972 in 2010)
- Poverty rate 10% (15 % nationally)
- Number of people without health insurance 9.2% (15.7 % nationally)

**National notes**
- Nationally incomes went down for the bottom 80% of households
- Corporate profits are headed up for a third consecutive strong year
• The stock market has doubled in value since March 2009

**Communication**

Twitter is one more tool in the communication toolbox that can be a useful and efficient way for school leaders to share information and build relationships. Try it.

- Twitter is a real-time information network that connects you to the latest stories, ideas, opinions and news about what you find interesting.
- At the heart of Twitter are small bursts of information called Tweets.
- Each Tweet can contain up to 140 characters.
- Twitter is the world’s second-most popular social network with 140 million users.
- 340 million messages are tweeted a day.
- There are more men than women on Twitter except in the developing world where women outnumber men.
- You can have a protected account and still attract many followers.

**Quotes and Quotables**

**Leadership**

- “Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know you trust him.” – Booker T. Washington
- “Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them become what they are capable of being.” – Goethe
- “The actions of [people] are the best interpreters of their thoughts.” – John Locke
- “Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that frightens us most.” – Nelson Mandela
- “Excellence is not a singular act, but a habit. You are what you repeatedly do.” – Shaquille ONeal
- “Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.” – Jim Rohn, Speaker and author

**Communication**
• “A good listener is not only popular everywhere, but after a while he gets to know something.” – Wilson Mizner
• “Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, what you believe, shine through every sentence you write, every piece your finish.” – John Jakes
• “They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.” – Carl W. Buechner
• “Write to be understood, speak to be heard, read to grow…” – Lawrence Clark Powell
• “Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.” – Albert Einstein
• “The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is.” – Winston Churchill
• “A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.” – Winston Churchill

Character

• “Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character.” – unknown
• “The roots of violence: Wealth without work, pleasure with conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, politics without principles.” – Mahatma Gandhi
• “Music has a power of forming the character, and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young.” – Aristotle
• “You cannot build character and courage by taking away man’s initiative and independence.” – Abraham Lincoln
• “Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character.” – Albert Einstein

Change

• “Change is the only constant.” – Proverbs
• “You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.” – Abraham Lincoln
• “Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.” – Unknown
• “When you’re finished changing, you’re finished.” – Benjamin Franklin

Kindness

• “Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind.” – Henry James
• “Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” – Mother Teresa
• “Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” – Mark Twain
• “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” – Aesop