



We either win or we learn something, we never lose or give up.

We are all familiar with a number of famous inventions and most of us use them on a daily basis. These inventions worked because the inventors never gave up. If Thomas Edison had believed in failure, we would still be living in darkness. If Henry Ford had given up, we would still be riding on horseback. If Alexander Graham Bell had stopped trying, we would be spending less time staring at those small cell phones that rule most of our lives.

Alpine ISD has been in school for over 18 weeks now and all students and adults have had the opportunity to learn. The lessons we have learned have come to us in numerous ways. Some of these lessons have been harder than others and many have resulted from not achieving what we expected.

Coming away from a classroom assignment with a lower grade than we expect. Not winning the game we thought we would surely win. Not advancing to the next level of competition. Not being selected as the top performer. These are just a few examples of opportunities to learn and be better the next time. When we turn these disappointments into learning opportunities, we reflect on where we can improve and be better the next time. Could we put more effort into the assignment? Did we underestimate our opponent and not play as smart as we should have? Could more practice and preparation have made the difference?

There are a number of questions that we can ask ourselves to help us understand that every disappointment can bring us closer to success. We learn from our mistakes and use this to show us what isn't working and what we need to do next time to be better. The feedback that we receive from a disappointment isn't just feedback; it is a learning opportunity to show us what isn't working and a way to find out what will work.

It is that feeling we get from not having the outcome that we expected that lends itself to a learning situation. We build character by learning from the situations we are in. Becoming the best that we can be doesn't come easy. There are always countless hours of preparation, a lot of sweat, some level of self-reflection, and maybe even some tears that result in a win. We have to believe that we are winners and use every opportunity that is presented as a lesson learned.

Every situation is a learning opportunity.

Go Bucks
Becky Watley