

GUEST COLUMN to the MONROE DISPATCH

For the Thursday, August 25, 2016 Edition

From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

Back To School List

Summer is officially over and all the kids (young and old) are back to school! This message is for parents, family members, and those playing an active role in the life of a student. I want to spend just a few minutes asking you to read, consider and take action on this back to school list.

1. Bring positive energy to every day. Children feed off of it.
2. Develop a creative routine that teaches your kid accountability and independence. It's great when they don't realize your teaching them a lesson.
3. Identify a weakness and help your student turn it into a strength.
4. Be engaged – ask questions daily, help them with their homework, and attend school meetings and events (other than ball games).
5. Volunteer your services to help at your student's school. School officials can always use an extra hand on a variety of efforts.
6. If you know someone is struggling because of work, health or other limitations, give them a break and support their child too. You'll be blessed, while being a blessing to someone else.
7. Show your kids the importance of giving back to those who are less fortunate.
8. Teach them to dream. Help them set goals. Direct them on their journey.
9. Listen. An honest perspective from our youth is like a breath of fresh air - Unfiltered and Needed.
10. Pray for and work with your student's teachers and administrators. It still takes a village to raise a child.

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!