



RCS D Superintendent Dr. Eric Byrne's Recommended Reading List Fall 2019



Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead

By Brené Brown, Ph.D., LMSW

A *New York Times* number one best seller. Every day we experience the uncertainty, risks, and emotional exposure that define what it means to be vulnerable or to dare greatly. Based on 12 years of pioneering research, Dr. Brené Brown dispels the cultural myth that vulnerability is weakness and argues that it is, in truth, our most accurate measure of courage.

In a world where "never enough" dominates and feeling afraid has become second nature, vulnerability is subversive. Uncomfortable. It's even a little dangerous at times. And, without question, putting ourselves out there means there's a far greater risk of getting criticized or feeling hurt. But when we step back and examine our lives, we will find that nothing is as uncomfortable, dangerous, and hurtful as standing on the outside of our lives looking in and wondering what it would be like if we had the courage to step into the arena - whether it's a new relationship, an important meeting, the creative process, or a difficult family conversation. *Daring Greatly* is a practice and a powerful new vision for letting ourselves be seen.

Dr. Eric Byrne says:

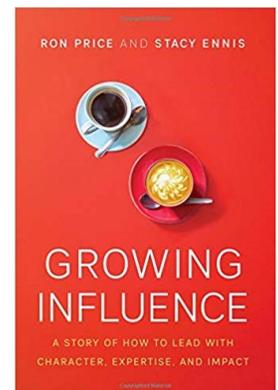
"Each year I present every employee of the school district with a book. *Daring Greatly* is this year's selection. It is a powerful book that pushes us to recognize and be willing to be vulnerable. We must be willing to take risks and be vulnerable, because if we want to be true models for our students, then we must be willing to share our fears, recognize our weaknesses, build on our strengths, and be willing to risk failure, all in the name of learning, growth, and improvement."

Growing Influence: A Story of How to Lead With Character, Expertise and Impact

By Ron Price and Stacy Ennis

Leadership is about influence.

Emily is a career-driven thirtysomething with big ambitions and a young family. She is making an impact as a leader at a tech company, but after being passed up for multiple promotions, she finds herself at a loss for how to improve. Fate answers her in the form of a kind—and surprisingly direct—older man in a coffee shop. A well-respected CEO before he retired, David has deep and rich leadership knowledge. Emily needs direction, and David is the perfect mentor.



Growing Influence offers readers both practical advice on how to develop leadership skills and a relatable account of one woman's growth by applying the principles in the book. Unlike nonfiction business books or business memoirs, this story is a business fable that is both impactful and transformative.

Dr. Eric Byrne says:

“Each summer our administrative team reads and discusses several professional books. *Growing Influence* is a terrific read in that it helps one to think deeply about improving as a leader and about developing those with whom we work.”



Change By Design
By Tim Brown

The myth of innovation is that brilliant ideas leap fully formed from the minds of geniuses. The reality is that most innovations come from a process of rigorous examination through which great ideas are identified and developed before being realized as new offerings and capabilities.

This book introduces the idea of design thinking, the collaborative process by which the designer’s sensibilities and methods are employed to match people’s needs not only with what is technically feasible and a viable business strategy. In short, design thinking converts need into demand. It’s a human-centered approach to problem solving that helps people and organizations become more innovative and more creative.

Design thinking is not just applicable to so-called creative industries or people who work in the design field. It’s a methodology that has been used by organizations such as Kaiser Permanente to increase the quality of patient care by re-examining the ways that their nurses manage shift change, or Kraft to rethink supply chain management. This is not a book by designers for designers; this is a book for creative leaders seeking to infuse design thinking into every level of an organization, product, or service to drive new alternatives for business and society.

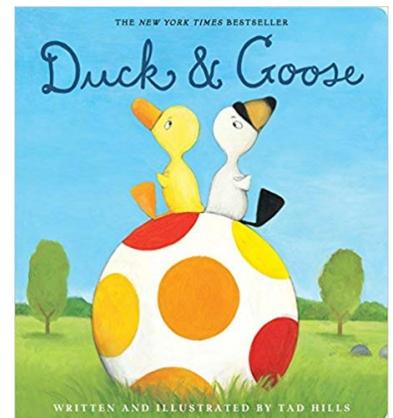
Dr. Eric Byrne says:

“As we consider our instructional programs and evolve our practices, using design thinking is a must in today’s world. It is my hope that we will begin to apply the principles of design thinking in all areas of our work as a school district.”

Duck & Goose

Written and Illustrated by Tad Hills

An unforgettable children's classic starring Duck and Goose, two young birds who mistake a polka-dot ball for an egg and have to master the art of cooperation—and sharing—to take care of it. But friendship is not always easy, as proved in this funny, accessible story. Young readers will instantly recognize themselves in these adorable and eternally optimistic characters



Dr. Eric Byrne says:

“Learning to collaborate and cooperate is so important. *Duck & Goose* is a beautiful story about working together and striving to achieve a goal.”