

Have a  
great  
Spring  
Break!



## A word from Matt Virgil...

Here's a deep question to kick off Spring Break: what made you who you are? It might be easy to say, "my faith," "my family," "my neighborhood," or "my education." But when did you become who you are? What have been the teachable moments of your life, the moments that have had a major impact on who you are and who you strive to become?

For me, one of these moments occurred in high school during a family trip to northern Wisconsin. It was winter, and my dad, brothers-in-law, and I were snowmobiling on a windy and bitterly cold day. We had been sledding for over two hours without stopping. Nearly frozen solid, we pulled up to a restaurant that also sold gas (a common combination in northern Wisconsin!). We filled up our sleds with gas, then hobbled inside to grab some deep-fried Wisconsin lunch. Thawed-out and full, we paid for our lunch but inadvertently forgot to pay for the gas.

Days later, as we drove back to St. Louis, my father suddenly remembered the oversight. I vividly recall what I saw on our kitchen counter the next day: a stamped envelope addressed to the Star Lake Saloon in Star Lake, Wisconsin. I asked my dad what it was, and he explained that the envelope held a check and a letter apologizing for not paying for the gas on that bitterly cold day. Surely the people at Star Lake Saloon had written off that gas sale—but my dad took the time to write the check and apology. He issued that check because it was the right thing to do—not just to benefit my moral growth—but I can tell you that I will never forget that "teachable moment."

I'm attaching a great article about how to make sure there are plenty of "teachable moments" in your child's life. It was published by the Council for Social and Emotional Education. After reading it, take a few minutes to identify some of the teachable moments in your own lifetime. Then consider sharing these stories with your children—I have a hunch they will appreciate hearing about the experiences that have helped make you who you are.

I want to share one more story with you (just to prove that I really learned something from that teachable moment!). A few years ago, I had my first downhill skiing experience in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Ignorant of the process, I managed to rent my equipment but somehow received the ski lift tag on my jacket without paying for my lift ticket! About an hour before the slopes closed, I mentioned that all this fun was a great deal, considering I'd only spent \$18.00. My twin sisters gave me puzzled looks, then helped me figure out that I'd only paid for my rentals. I finished skiing, turned in my rentals and found the manager of the cashiers' station. I apologized for not paying for my lift ticket and handed her my credit card.

*I hope that you all have an enjoyable, restful, safe, and memorable Spring Break!*

**Matt Virgil**  
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Congrats to CA student Marniese Harvey and alumnus Joshua Temple, both recently honored by the Demetrious Johnson Charitable Foundation as IRONS Kids in recognition of their dedication to sports, academics, and the community.

