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It's already April, and can I just say, it's been an honor being in the Arete Academy. I'm so proud to be in it again for the second year, and I'm thrilled that I could do so much in these two short years. Done so many projects, events, met so many new people, been able to help the community, and so much more. I will be heartbroken when this journey of Arete is over, but I'll be able to look back and see how much I've grown and how much I did to help the school, the students, and the community. I'm overjoyed with everyone in the program. Everyone has done so much and have progressed since I've met them. Everyone is unique and talented in their own way, and everyone brings something to the table. Arete will always be something special in all of our hearts. We are the stepping stones, the legacy of this amazing thing. Let's end off this school year with a bang and be the best we can be! I love you all, and I can't wait to spend the next 2 months or so with my family, The Arete Academyl

## Email from Lynn Heyn - Reflecting on the Hero ceremony and her time teaching at NHS.

Today has been the best day of my teaching career.

Honestly--experiencing the great success of our PBL kids this morning with their Heroes presentation brought me to tears. I am so proud of them all. You guys were there, so you know what I mean. It turns out I discovered one of those "threads" that Brady Kiel was talking about. I met a woman who recognized my name--she used to work with my mother-in-law years and years ago at CONE credit union. She said her grandson, Ethan Springborn, was in our program. I was relating this story to Ethan, and telling him how proud I am of him. I told him I am amazed at how far he and his classmates have come since the the beginning of their freshman year. I told him they were awesome. And without missing a beat, he said," Mrs. Heyn, I promise you we will never stop learning."

I started tearing up all over again. Llke I am now relaying the story.

I can retire a happy woman.

## Email from Dr. Pfeiffer

Hello everyone. I continue to reflect upon last Friday and the sheer joy and pride I felt and continue to feel! Although I was a bit late, I couldn't help but take in every minute of the celebration. The students were amazing and it was evident that they thought about every detail. From the idea to the event, everything was in place and went off without a hitch. I also appreciated how engaged they were in the conversations I had with them. Often times students don't have the confidence to approach adults and carry on the conversations I had with them. Bravo! I am so proud of our students!

With that stated, I have had an opportunity to connect with all of you this year and more than in years past. I have appreciated your ideas, your challenges and yes, your solutions. As leaders and teachers in Arete, you must realize that the students would not have gone through the transformations they have without YOU! Every conversation we have is about students. It's about never giving up. It's about finding solutions. I am so thankful for YOU and the team you have become. There is something very special about you and for that I remain thankful. Not only have our students grown and been inspired by you, I have as well! Mary