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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Remember To Take The Time To Create Memories This Memorial Season

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – I was fortunate to be able to play a part in the 35th annual JROTC Dining Out and Awards Night this week. It is an event I look forward to each year because it is another reminder to me that we do have great students and staff at Springboro Community Schools – and the food is always good!

As I sat there watching cadets being recognized for outstanding performances by not only our staff, but by military visitors from throughout the Miami Valley, it brought back a flood of memories from the other such events I have had the opportunities to attend in the past 36 years of my career in education.

Many of you know that I began my career as a band director. I always looked forward to the month of May because that was when the band was asked to play at spring concerts, graduations, and other end of school events. By May, many of the students had truly become musicians over their nine-month stint in my class. Sometimes I wondered who was more proud of these students – their parents or me.

It hasn't been that long that I was a parent, getting home from work, and then hurrying the family through dinner and then back to school for the girls' recitals, plays and other such events. It seems concerts, musicals, plays, awards ceremonies, and yes, even graduations always are scheduled on the days that are the most inconvenient for our personal schedules.

Obviously, school administrators try very hard to make sure events are scheduled at times and dates that most parents can attend, but we are all very busy – sometimes making these dates fit within our schedules can be difficult.

The fact of the matter is there is nothing more important on your planner in May and early June than the culminating activities of your children. I know many times, parents feel like they are in a balancing act; they want to keep the folks at work happy, but they have family obligations as well.

I would encourage all parents to make these year-end culminating events your top priority over the next four weeks. That's right – there are only four weeks left in the 2006-2007 school year.

Your child may tell you that missing a sixth grade band concert or an elementary field day isn't important to them. But you are missing out on a memory you can never reclaim. Yes, your child may say they are OK with you not being there, but are YOU OK with it?

This memory-creating month is full of opportunities for the camcorder and camera. I hope you take the time to record your child's last few days in their current grade for their own personal history.

Projects at work will always be there. The experiences your child is enjoying right now are fleeting. Take the time to capture those memories now. You will be glad you did.

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