

# Indiana Principal's Poem Describes Job Faced By Schools

By DR. EDDIE WEST

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Edenton-Chowan Schools

As we begin a new school year this week, your school officials again approach their responsibilities with a renewed vigor, seriousness of purpose and with a realization that the future of Chowan County and, indeed, this state and nation, rests with the degree of success which they, working with parents, church and the community, experience with our youth.

Perhaps the poem below by an Indiana principal, illustrates how much we recognize what each parent expects of us.

### TAKE MY SON BY THE HAND

My son starts to school tomorrow. It's all going to be strange and new to him for a while, and I wish you would sort of treat him gently. You see, up to now, he's been king of the roost.

He's been boss of the backyard. I have always been around to repair his wounds, and I've always been handy to soothe his feelings. But now—things are going to be different.

This morning he's going to walk down the front steps, wave his hands, and start on his great adventure that probably will include wars and tragedy and sorrow.

To live his life in the world he has to live in, will require faith and love and courage.

So, teacher, I wish you would sort of take him by his young hand and teach him the things he will have to know.

Teach him—but gently, if you can.

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, that all men are not true.

Teach him that for every scoundrel, there is a hero, that for every crooked poli-

cian there is a dedicated leader. Teach him that for every enemy, there is a friend.

Let him learn early that the bullies are the easiest people to lick.

Teach him the wonders of books. Give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun, and flowers on a green hill.

Teach him about the world of work.

Teach him that it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat. Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone else is getting on the bandwagon. Teach him to listen to all men, but to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and to take only the good that comes through.

Teach him to sell his brawn and brains to the highest bidder, but never to put a price tag on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob, and to stand and fight if he thinks he's right.

Teach him gently, but don't coddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

This is a big order, teacher, but see what you can do. He's such a nice little fellow, my son.

From the time a child is six until he graduates from high school, he probably spends more time each day, from September through May, in school or school related functions than he does with his parents.

Be assured that each employee in the Edenton-Chowan Schools is aware of the importance of each and every child. Equally, we are aware of the responsibility, dedica-

tion and commitment needed on our part to take each child "by the hand" and to foster his God-given strengths.

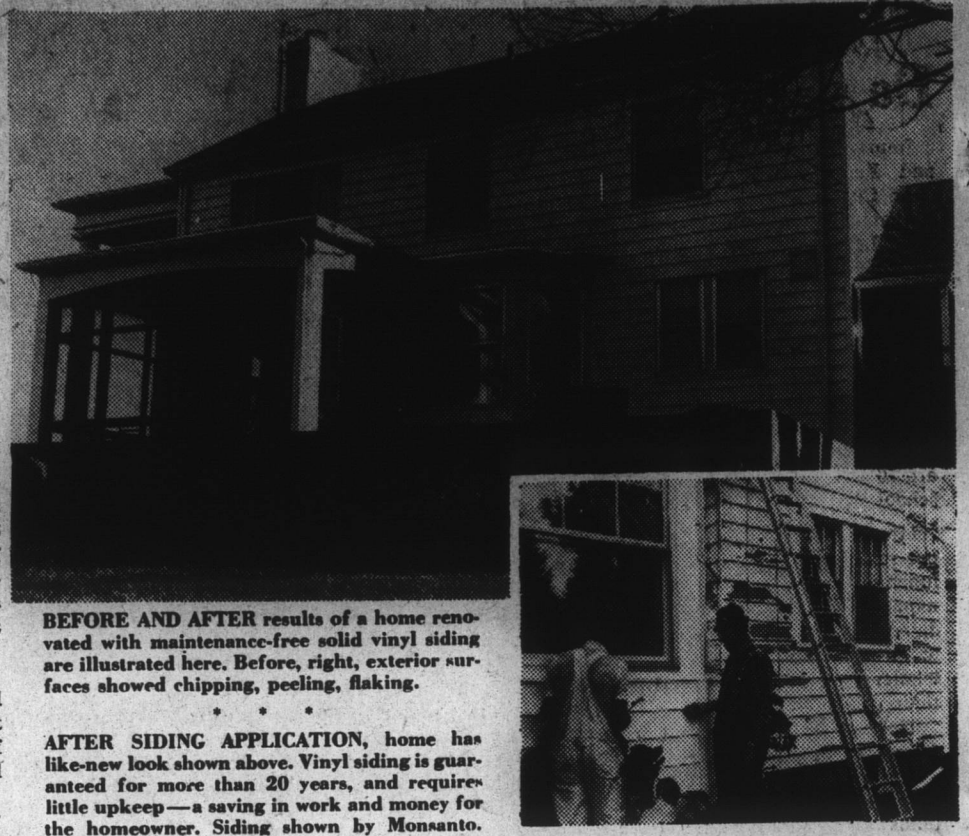
We welcome the opportunity for service. We solicit the help of each parent, church and the community at large in this important task.

### NAME IS MISNOMER

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia's super crossing over and under the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, is labeled a bridge-tunnel despite the fact that less than one-third of the 17.6 mile long structure consists of bridges and tunnels. The remainder of the crossing is made up of man-made islands and trestled roadway.

As the next presidential election rolls around it might be a good idea to have one of the polls predict which poll is correct.

FOR QUICK RESULTS  
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BEFORE AND AFTER results of a home renovated with maintenance-free solid vinyl siding are illustrated here. Before, right, exterior surfaces showed chipping, peeling, flaking.

AFTER SIDING APPLICATION, home has like-new look shown above. Vinyl siding is guaranteed for more than 20 years, and requires little upkeep—a saving in work and money for the homeowner. Siding shown by Monsanto.



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