

# Student Reach Minnesota

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"Helping students reach their potential through creative communication."



Born to an unwed teenager who at one time considered abortion as a viable option for solving her "problem," Reggie Dabbs considers himself fortunate to be alive. With no place to go, the pregnant teenager ended up living in a chicken coop in Louisiana. It was there she remembered a former school teacher, Mrs. Dabbs, who had said to her students, "If you ever need anything, call me," and gave the students her home phone number. The girl called.

Mrs. Dabbs went to Louisiana, picked up the girl, and took her back to Tennessee where she and her husband, whose six children were adults by this time, took the girl into their home and cared for her until after the baby was born. They continued to care for little Reggie as foster parents until he was in the fourth grade, and then they officially adopted him and gave him the Dabbs name.

As the Dabbs' reared Reggie, they instilled in him strong moral values, for which he is genuinely grateful. They also ingrained in him the fact that in every situation he faced, he had a choice. What he did with those choices was entirely up to him.

In the sixth grade, Reggie began playing the saxophone and hated it. At the insistence of his parents he continued to practice and to play. Not until his freshman year in college did he actually enjoy the instrument, and today, he plays with fervor and expertise.

After graduating from college, Reggie began his public speaking. During one speaking engagement, his host asked if he would be interested in addressing a high school assembly. From that small beginning in 1987, Reggie has become a popular public school speaker.

When addressing a school assembly, Reggie talks to the kids in a humorous style about choices each of them has when faced with drugs, alcohol, suicide, etc. Reggie gets in kids faces and tells them that he never smoked a cigarette, never did drugs, never drank alcohol, because he chose not to. He assures them that they can make the same kinds of choices. Most of all, Reggie drives home the fact that "You can never change your past, but you can change your future!"

From being a "Problem" to an unwed teenager, Reggie has become one of the most in-demand speakers who helps teenagers meet their problems head-on and overcome them.

Reggie makes his home in Ft. Myers, Florida with his wife Michele.



#### A personal message from Reggie Dabbs

Dear concerned principals and educators:

Thank you for taking your valuable time to consider the possibilities of allowing me to come and speak to your students. I believe, as I am sure you do, that your community's greatest assets are not in it's buildings, but in the students themselves.

Student Reach Minnesota and I have committed our life's work to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. I would consider it an honor to partner with you and your school's goal of building better students.

Today's generation is facing unparalleled hurts, pressures and choices. If we can heal those hurts, help in times of pressure and equip students in their choices, we will have better students and a positive school atmosphere. That is where I can help assist you with this school assembly presentation. I share with students often, "You can't change your past, but you can change your future." With all that students are facing, we must give them hope.

Surrounding this letter you will find biographical information and recommendations, as well as a printable discussion guide that can be used following the assembly program by teachers or school counselors for small group interaction. I trust that this will equip you to make an informed decision.

Thank you for your time.

Because Students Matter,

Veggie ()abbs





# Reggie Dabbs School Assembly Discussion Questions

- 1. Did you like our speaker? Why or why not?
- 2. What story or statement do you remember the most?
- What went through you mind when Reggie said the following statements...a. "Do you ever lay awake at night and remember the hurt in your past?"

b. "If I knew then what I know now, I never would have done that!"

c. "You can't change your past, but you can change your future!"

- 4. Which statement causes you to think most about where you have been and where you want to go? Why?
- 5. Did you find it hard to believe that Reggie never did drugs or alcohol? If so, explain.
- 6. What goals or dreams do you have? What part of Reggie's story inspires you to reach your dream? What part of your own story holds you back? What can you do with the past?
- 7. Did the assembly program today help you look at any part of your life in different way? (discuss)
- 8. How does it feel when someone says, "I love you" and mean it?

### What administrators are saying

Reggie is an extraordinary speaker with an amazing gift to keep is audience of all ages and ethnicities engaged. Thank you for sharing your authentic expressions of your life. You truly added to the positive culture of our school. Looking forward to your return.

#### Valerie Littles-Butler, Central High School

Very well done! From set up to tear down, this program is one smooth operation! Reggie has a keen sense for what students need and how to reach them. He provides time for fun and laughter, as well as time to get serious. His ability to to tap into students domain is deliberate and skillfully done. He quickly builds a relationship, hooks their hearts, and enters their minds. Very nice presentation. *Mark Huss, Rogers Middle School* 

The topics and story was amazing! Perfect for our at-risk students. Communications with SRM was great. Half our students attention better than any other speaker! Awesome. Reggie exceeded all of our expectations – an excellent performance.

#### Jay Powell, Corssroads School and Vocational Center

Expectations met – clear, thought-provoking presentation. *Beth Lacoursiere, St. Francis Middle School* 

It was a great program and I appreciate your flexibility throughout. *Tim Wege, Albany High School* 

Perfect timing for our students. We've experienced a variety of unpredictable tragedies as well as battle the grave dilemma of social media and it's "negative" impact on relationships. Caring for one another and recognizing they can make it, survive this tumultuous time in their lives. *Jeff Britten, Greenway High School* 

# Was wonderful – highly recommend to have back!! *Paul Brainare, Nashwauk-Keewatin High School*

It was a great presentation! Since the event I have had no less than a dozen staff members and 20+ students say how good it was.

#### Bob Dockendork, Big Lake High School

Great assembly! Message held on many wet eyes mixed with laugher. Parents raved about later discussions with their children. Worth every cent. *Mark Ernst, Big Lake Middle School* 

This was simple the best program we have ever had. Reggie had ALL of the students actively engages. We have seen a significant increase in the amount of kindness and acts of kindness in our building. *Darren Kern, Independence Elementary (Big Lake, MN)* 

Reggie was masterful at connection with our student body. It is evident that Reggie in thoughtful in his approach on profession in his delivery. *John Reeves, Monticello High School* 

It has been several days since Reggie spoke to our kinds, I continue to hear about the impact he made. Thanks!

#### Jeff Scherber, Monticello Middle School

Reggie's ability to hold our student's attention was outstanding! Fantastic program! *Dr. Christine Glomski, Becker Intermediate School* 

Fantastic day! From students to staff to parents all comments were positive and appreciative for Reggie's message and how important it was. Kids were still talking about it the next day. Thanks!! **Brian Baloon, Becker High School** 

Thanks for sharing such a powerful and relevant message. All of our students study music and performance throughout middle school, so the integration of music was really terrific.

#### Nancy Helmer, Becker Middle School

Unbelievable ability to hold the attention of 1100 students! Our expectation were met and then some! Thank you for making a difference. Even days later staff ant students are still talk but about Reggie. Thank you!

#### Dave Erts, Chicago Lakes High School

Great program. Students love it. Lots of praise/talk the day after. *Mike Hammernick, Northern Lights Charter Community School 6-12* 

I have never, ever in 27 years had more staff and students talk about how great, amazing, fantastic this program was!! One of the best I have ever seen. Truly moving and outstanding student engagement. *Willie Spelt, Roosevelt Elementary School, Virginia MN* 

Excellent program! Loved the ease of set up and tear down. *Lisa Perkovich, Virginia High School* 

Reggie was wonderful – he was engaging, fun, funny and shared a great message. *Kari Fields, Minnehaha Academy* 

Reggie delivered a powerful message of hope to our middle school students. He had our students singing, laughing, crying and singing and laughing again. Highly recommended! *Dr. Steven Emerson, Olson Middle School* 

Excellent all around. *Aloda Sims, Fridley Middle School* 

Reggie held our students' attention like no one else I have seen. Its messaging brought laughter, tears, and reflection. I highly recommend this presentation to other schools. *Duane Berkas, Columbia Academy* 

What a phenomenal and uplifting performance and presentation. Thank you for the valuable lesson you imparted into our students. The message was relevant, thought-provoking, age appropriate and highly engaging and interactive.

#### Theresa Neal, Como Park Senior High School

Great presentation – several student and teachers said it was the best assembly ever! *Mike McCollor, Washington Technology Magnet* 

We were very impressed with Reggie's connection with our student and the message h brought. Thank you for providing us this opportunity, we are grateful!

Ben Herman (counselor), Dayton's Bluff Elementary

"Reggie was exceptional. His ability to use humor, music, and relevant story telling captured students attention. Reggie's message hit home with our students and I know his impact was deep and wide." *Charlie Eisenreich, Principal, St. Cloud Tech High School* 

"Reggie did a great job today. He kept the presentation up beat, but still held the students attention." *Nate Guetter, Assistant Principal, Rocori High School* 

"Excellent! Great message and kept students engaged." *Wanda Bell, Principal, Pillager Elementary* 

"Loved having you guys! Excellent!" Scott Doss, Principal, Pillager Middle School

"Reggie was great. The students enjoyed his show, respected his message, and appreciated his perspective. We are so thankful it worked out to have him visit our school." *Mitch Schiltz, Principal, Pine Island High School* 

"Thank you for doing this for us, Reggie is a great speaker." *Mike Harvey, Principal, Goodhue Secondary School* 

#### "Excellent! Thanks!" Mark Upsahl, Principal, Goodhue Elementary School

"The whole team was involved and the positive energy was felt. Role models for all of our students! I've never experienced a program like this. It was life changing as a principal and mother, sister, wife. This will be an experience we will all remember and reflect on through the year and into the future, without a doubt it was life changing."

#### Joy Freitag, Lakeside Elementary, Glencoe

"Best assembly we've had! Reggie had them in the palm of his hand. Phenomenal show and message! Kids love Reggie and his message was much needed for a lot of our kids!" Paul Sparby, Glencoe - Silver Lake High School

"He had students rolling in their seats with laughter and the next minute crying and reflecting on their lives and purpose. The biggest complement I can give Reggie is that in the evening hundreds of students wanted to come back to school to hear him again, that does not happen. It was a great balance between humor and a great message. Great job!"

#### Daniel Suboda, Principal, Lincoln Junior High, Glencoe

"Our entire staff was impressed with Reggie's ability to tailor his message to primary aged students. His message of perseverance, hope, and love connected us to each other. Reggie connects with kids." Bill Butler, Principal, Helen Baker Elementary, Glencoe

"Loved it! Great feedback from students and staff. Reggie does an outstanding job getting everyone's attention and the message can change a kid's life." Mike Zweber, Principal, Lakeville North High School

#### "Reggie did a great job holding kids' attention." Kate Eisenthal, Kenwood Trail Middle School, Lakeville

"All positive comments by the students - really hit home with the kids. He really spoke from his heart, students enjoyed him."

#### Randy Erickson, Principal, Century Middle School, Lakeville

#### Teacher Comments from Maple Grove Middle School:

"I was only able to see Reggie in the staff meeting - and was "wowed" with just that 12 minutes. I will add that throughout the day I heard many students - all with positive, impacted statements. They loved this presentation. It's hard to impress MS students - he did." "Phenomenal presenter - so positive and uplifting."

"Good timing, we are beginning to have issues and need tools like this to dialogue."

"He's brilliant..Connected with entire audience. Real life, applicable message to ALL students."

"Fantastic message of hope and overcoming obstacles."

"The kids loved it!"

"A++++++++ I would wholeheartedly recommend this presentation to other schools!" "Overall fabulous!"

Students LOVED this. They really enjoyed the topic around "motivations" and "never giving up". Many students told me they have been having a tough time at home and/or school and they needed a "pickme-up". This presentation was engaging, fun, real, and motivating to students and staff."

"Very effective! He was able to keep the students attention throughout the presentation."

"Reggie is very relatable. Love his message, sense of humour and storytelling."

"It's a fantastic message and extremely well presented."

#### Lisa Hartman, Principal, Maple Grove Middle School

"Students loved it"

## Brett Srcher, Principal, Minnehaha Elementary

"Reggie was the best motivational speaker we have ever had!! Solid message and participation was was fun and engaging!"

#### John Mets, Principal, North Woods Secondary, Cook

"This was one of the best programs we've had. Kids that would usually just sit there during performaces

with clapping and laughing. Students came up to me and thanked me for helping to get him to come (that has <u>never</u> happened), very inspirational! Kelly Engmand, Principal, Northeast Range School, Babbit

"Lifechanging! ALL students and adults should see this program, it may save a life!" Cory Larson, Program Administrator, Minnewaska Area Day Program, Starbuck

#### "He was very energizing, grew was great and profesional." Linda Schmidt, Principal, Minnewaska Elementary, Glenwood

#### Teacher Comments from Minnewaska High School:

"Kids loved your presentation - tying in the music with the message makes it stick. Kids are still talking about it."

"I have never hear such positive comments from students regarding a speaker. They thought your performance was great! You really connected with them! Students hope you come back soon.| "Please do not wait another 8 years to have Mr. Dabbs back. Extremely powerful and postiive motivational speaker. he engaged every student, I have never heard them so quiet!" Pat Falk, Principal, Minnewaska High School

"Reggie' message hit home with every student. Reggie speaks and relates to every student/person in the audience. He is a fantastic musician and does a magnificent job of mixing his message with the music! Students need to hear that they matter and they can make a difference." Mike Knutson, Dean of Students, Benson Secondary

"Reggie did a great job of relating his message and keeping the studens involved and engaged." Doug Runia, Principal, MACCRAY West Elementary

He was very energizing. He could share a little more of his story, even with this age (of student). The crew was great and very professional!"

#### Linda Schmidt, Principal, Minnewaska Elementary

"Reggie was the best motivational speaker we have ever had! Great job! It was a solid message with great song choices and participation was fun and engaging! John Metsa, Principal, North Woods Secondary

"Students loved it!" Brett Archer, Principal, Minnehaha Elementary

"Reggie is a talented musician and inspiring speaker. He emotionally connects with his audience. Our students were moved to tears as well as many of our adults." Suzette Erickson, Principal, Crest View Elementary

"Capivating, relevant and inspiring! We need to have him back and give him more time to speak." John Phelps, High School Principal, Blaine High School

#### Teachers Comments from Maple Grove Middle School:

"Students loved this! it was amazing to sit back and watch them take it all in. Looking at them; 500 students quite and paying attention. Very powerful. Students are still talking about it."

"Students described it as inspiring, entertaining, funny, energetic, and moving."

"He combined entertainment, humor and a real uplifting message to draw the students in. Some of them even "teared up" duing his message."

"I thought Reggie immediately got his audiences' attention, he maintained it rhough a fast pace story intersperced with music, audience participation, and a heartfelt message."

"Thank you for sharing your time with us. The students talked about you and your content which is awesome. You conneccted with the kids and provided a real role-model image to many of them."

"Mr. Dabbs understands how to change the pace and activities in a way that keeps students focused. We were able to have some rich conversations when we returned to MGJH.

#### Christine Mann, Student Leader Advisor, Maple Grove Junior High

"It was so awesome to see our students engaged and enthusiastic about Reggie and his message. I loved the '10 Second Message.'"

#### Ray Kirch, Activities Coordinator, Osseo High School

"The music and talent are amazing...a pleasure to witness the message...great for all kids. It was honoring to teachers."

#### Donna Montgomery, Prinicpal, Gatewood Elementary School

"Reggie has the unique ability to make you howl with laughter in one moment and shed a tear in the next heartbeat."

#### Tim Larsen, Assisitant Principal, Hopkins West Junior High

#### "This is the most unifying program we have ever had." *Omar Adams, Assistant Prinicpal, Zanewood Community School*

"(Reggie was) good for all students and staff. We would like to have Mr. Dabbs back to RAHS nest year. His message was insightful, emotionally engaging and fun. He exceeded my expectations." **Todd M. Olson, AVID Advisor, Roseville Area High School** 

"I have had many assemblies over the years, but Reggie is outstanding, super musician and speaker, He makes his messages meaningful for our kids. Great job! Jerry Reker, Princinpal, Kasson-Mantorville High School

"Awesome!" Scott Doss, Principal, Pillager High School

"Reggie had a great message coupled with student engagement!" Wanda Bell, Principal, Pillager Elementary "Great as always!" Karrie Boser, Principal, Healy High School

"Excellent. The music, humor and message were all top notch. The kids really enjoyed it!" *Gene Harthan, Superintendent, Swanville High School* 

"Reggie held students attention with humor. Students ate is up!" *Tim Bjorge, Principal, Little Falls Community HS* 

"Excellent program." Nathan Swenson, Principal, Little Falls Community Middle School

"He is energetic and sincere. Our students could relate to him." *Brad Zachow, Principal, Circle of Nations School. Wahpeton, ND* 

"Amazing! Beyond excellent! The students had fun and this made people think. *Clark Gripentrog, Principal, Wahpeton High School* 

"Reggie had the students very engaged and had a great message" *Linda Palmer, Counselor, Wahpeton Middle School* 

"Reggie did an amazing jog of grabbing, holding and keeping the students' attention...overall it was one of our best lyceums ever." Al Cue, Assistant Principal, Blue Earth Area Middle School

"Reggie did a great job, as usual. I first heard Reggie four years ago in Minneota. When this opportunity came up, I leaped at the chance to get him here. Thanks a ton!" Todd Griepentrog, Principal, Maple River Middle School and High School

"I get many requests each year for speakers to attend our school. This has been the best in my 22 years in public education. He was funny, made fun of himself and drew the students in. His message was simple but powerful. It was easy for students to connect with his message."

Brian Shanks, Principal, Álden-Conger Schools

"Reggie did a great job catching the students attention and the delivering his choices, anti-bullying message. Students were talking about it throughout the day." *Mike Harvey, Principal, Goodhue Secondary School* 

"Great message! I wish it was an hour long, kids love it! *Mark Opsahl, Principal, Goodhue Elementary* 

"This a great presentation and the students thought it was awesome." *Tim Everson, Principal, Falls High School, International Falls* 

"Reggie Dabbs has the unique ability to hold the student's attention and deliver a heart felt message. His mix of musical talent, humor and real-life stories makes it easy for students to connect. He has a great message that kids don't always hear."

Paul Vander Hagen, Principal, Northome School

"Reggie is very positive and upbeat while holding an audiences attention." *Jerry Lawrence, Principal, Chisholm High School* 

"(Reggie was) very engaging and thought provoking, the acknowledgement of staff was great! We definitely want him back!" Jeff Britten, Principal, Nashwauk-Keewatin High School

"The best program we have ever had. I can't thank you enough! *Robert W. Bestul, Principal, Lincoln Elementary, Hibbing* 

"Reggie made an impact on students on how they treat one another. He connects with students and staff."

#### Dan Voce, Principal, Princeton Middle School

"The message is delivered in a manner that holds student's attention and they continue to repeat his raps and songs weeks after his presentation."

#### Todd Kieffer, Principal, Folwell Elementary, Rochester

"Great message of hope, it hits home with students and their individual struggles." *Jake Dodge, Assistant Principal, Kingsland Secondary, Spring Valley* 

"My students were speechless at the end and didn't want to leave the gym. We should have had Kleenex's for the staff presentation." **Shane McBroom, Principal, Rushford/Peterson Schools** 

"Motivating, engaging and fun! Our students were having fun during the assembly but to see them translate it to their day-to-day lives is really exciting."

Jody De St. Hubert, Principal, Alice Smith Elementary, Hopkins

"The students loved the event and Reggie. They were excited to tell parents about the wonderful man and his message."

#### Donna Montgomery, Principal, Gatewood Elementary, Hopkins

"We had nothing but positive comments on the two presentations Reggie gave...a very positive message in line with the work we are doing with our students." **Ben Kusch, Principal, Farmington High School** 

"It was fantastic!" Chris Bussmann, Principal, Dodge Middle School, Farmington

"Phenomenal presentation all around." Benjamin Fisher, Principal, Randolph Secondary School

"(It was) last minute but I am so glad we chose to have Reggie speak, he's awesome!" *Eric Enger, Principal, Zumbrota/Mazzeppa High School* 

"Good message with a great delivery" Teresa Rosen, Assistant Principal, Richfield High School

"Very motivational, kids really connected with him." Kelly Ronn, Principal, Metcalf Junior High, Burnsville

"A great program, hard to improve on. (Reggie) had them spell bound (with) a powerful message, highly motivational.

Lyle Katzenmeyer, Principal, Minnewaska Area Schools

"Excellent! Best ever!" Cory Larsen, Principal, Sauk Centre Senior High

"(This program) fit in with building goals and objectives and was at a perfect time period for middle school students." Nathan Swenson, Principal, Little Falls Community Middle School

"Excellent!" Robert Just, Principal, Little Falls High School

"Did a great job of meeting our student's needs." Everett Arnold, Principal, Red Lake High School

"It was such a great message. Students really listen to people that have lived real situations. Thank you so much for being here." Cheryl Schmidt, Principal, Rocori Middle School

"Good thoughts for the student: it is not my past which is important, but instead what I choose to make of myself everyday."

Chuck Griffith, Principal, Albany Area Junior High School

"He relates to issues kids are currently going through." Wendy Wild, Program Director, Oak Grove High School

"After school I heard three different groups of kids doing a rap about drug-free parties. That says a lot about the presentation! Thanks for coming up north." Richard Anderson, Principal, Bemidji High School

"Reggie presents a stellar program! He captivates students like none other!" Pernall Knutson, Principal, Cass Lake-Bena High School

"Reggie has a great gift for communicating. The students love him. We would have him back again." Terry Gotziaman, Principal, Roseau High School

"Excellent program, very good message, powerful. Best program we've ever had." Craig Oftedahl, Superintendent, Warroad Public Schools

"Reggie did an awesome job of captivating our students. He spoke personally to some students, that he didn't even know, with his message." Jeanne Lukens, Principal, Moundsview Area Learning Center

"One of the best I have ever seen!" John Strom, Principal, Fosston High School

"Excellent across the board! Great message!" John Anderson, Principal, Watertown/Mayer Middle School

"Reggie is an excellent speaker and with the combination of music and humor, he is able to hold the student's attention easily." Scott Helgeson, Assistant Principal, Mahnomen High School

# "His message needs to be heard by other students!" *Matt Schoen, Principal , Delano High School*

"He relates perfectly with this age group. Students are begging to have him back." *Renee Klinkner, Principal, Delano Middle School* 

#### "Reggie is able to hold kids." *Pete Olson, Principal, Princeton High School*

"Reggie is excellent and the band helped a lot. I would have him back at our school anytime." *Gene Harthan, Superintendent, Swanville Schools* 

"It was the best presentation I've seen in my 15 years in education. His energy and enthusiasm along with the music kept our students attention the entire time. It was homecoming week and he was able to integrate this into his presentation. It was excellent!"

#### Tim Pahl, Principal, Upsala Schools

"Very moving and important message." *Sue Matson, Director, Career and Life Transition Program, Roseville* 

"Outstanding! A message of hope, healing and decisions, it was timely, what we needed. The kids loved it!" *Karen Norell, Principal, Yellow Medicine East Secondary School* 

"Outstanding! It was a great presentation that exceeded my expectations." *Chad Pederson, Principal, Montevideo Middle School* 

"The students and staff loved the presentation and it really took hold of them. It was very age appropriate and a great message." *Sarah Lieber, Dean of Students, Sanford Elementary, Montevideo, MN* 

# "Our students enjoyed the presentation and the message."

#### Paul Cyr, Principal, NRHEG Schools, New Richland, MN

"(Reggie Dabbs) has a high standard of professionalism. He speaks from the heart and is positive, reflective and meaningful. (He brings) a message of strength, believing in yourself and others. No matter what your family background or past, one can succeed in life and treat others with kindness." **Ray Staatz, Principal, Pipestone Area Schools** 

"I was very impressed with Mr. Dabbs. He quickly developed a strong rapport with the students. He spoke to them at their level, which kept them engaged from the beginning until the end. The band was impressive. I heard kids say, 'that is the best assembly I've ever been to.' We truly appreciated the assembly." **Brian Jandahl, Principal, Elkton Secondary School, Elkton, SD** 

"We really appreciated you coming to share with us today! Reggie was great and his message got to the kids. Teachers got involved in the program, which is great! **Todd Greipentrog, Principal, Minneota High School** 

#### Teachers from Park High School in Cottage Grove:

"I really enjoyed the program. It was entertaining and it seemed as if everyone was into it. I would definitely recommend Reggie to every school. He is a true inspiration."

"He sends a real life message to the students."

"He was professional, funny, thought provoking and I wish the program was longer."

"It was interactive and funny, yet (Reggie) maintained attention even in the serious parts. He kept 1,400 students silent!! He also had a good message about the teacher's role." **Dr. Efe Agbamu, Principal, Park High School, Cottage Grove** 

"Just super! (It was) very motivational for all three grades." Chris Palmatier, Assistant Principal, Oltman Middle School, St. Paul Park "(Reggie) has the ability to hold students attention. (He) is thought provoking, super motivational for the children and went over my expectations! The topic related to a lot of our student's lives." **Becky Schroeder, Principal, Oltman Middle School, St. Paul Park** 

"Excellent!"

Michael Meihak, Principal, Janesville/Waldorf/Pemberton Secondary, Janesville

"Excellent!"

Jeanne Swanson, Principal, Waseca High School

"Exceptional!" Kristil McDonald, Principal, Pine River, Backus High School

# Pillager Teachers:

"Many students shared with me that they had enjoyed Reggie Dabbs' presentation before, and that things he'd said had helped them through tough times later."

"(Reggie) is great! I hope you can hit all the local schools."

"Excellent presentation. He has a gifted way of communicating with students. Great message."

"Outstanding! Reggie relates well to youth an has a great message."

"I think Reggie has a positive message that kids need to hear."

#### "Great!" Scott Doss, Principal, Pillager Secondary

"We appreciate the performance. I really wanted Reggie and company to return to our school, but could not afford the regular fee. The opportunity to have him back at a reduced fee (because of flu-related cancellations) was a gift! Our kids really enjoyed the performance. Students can really relate to the messages."

# Peggy Novak, Principal, Walker/Hackensack/Akeley Secondary

"One hour is not enough. Reggie did an fantastic job! (This is) a very professional and courteous group." *Gregg Parks, Principal, Laporte Secondary* 

"(Reggie is a) great speaker. I would have him back any day! He has a message all youth need to hear." *Gwen Borgen, Principal, Badger Secondary School* 

"Reggie had the students in the palm of his hand and conveyed a message that attached to the emotional side of our students, very powerful!"

## Larry Stracke, Principal, Śauk Rapids-Rice Middle School

"He can take the audience from raucous to dead silent and back in 15 seconds and his message is right on target!

A great day, we heard many positive comments form staff, students and parents in regards to both school and evening presentations."

# Erich Martens, Principal, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School

"(Reggie) relates to students. Students continued discussions related to the speaker's presentation later in the day. (The program) was a good opener to some worthy conversations." *Eldon Sparby, Principal, Greenbush-Middle River Schools* 

"Reggie is an excellent speaker and motivator. He relates well to all groups: parents, students and community people. We have had him speak to our students twice." *Terry Gotziaman, Principal, Roseau High School* 

"One of the best assemblies we have had. A teacher shared this comment after Reggie's assembly: 'Reggie's performance reminded me of why I do this (teach)." Dave Sorgaard, Principal, Tri-County Schools, Karlstad

"Amazing! Reggie is the BEST speaker in my 30 years as an educator." *Brad Homstad, Superintendent, Lancaster Public Schools* 

"(Reggie has an) excellent mix of humor and message. All students need to be reminded of self-worth and Reggie did a good job of that. (This is) one of the best programs that we have had." *Terry Ogorek, Dean of Students, Kittson County Central High School, Hallock* 

"Reggie has a unique blend of "with-it-ness" and high moral character that allows him to intertwine a message of life, hardship and accomplishment. As a principal, it is rare to find someone that can inspire, entertain and send all students away with a great message, all in 50 minutes." *Aaron Harper, Principal, East Ridge High School, Woodbury* 

"(Reggie) is age appropriate, engaging and meaningful." Derek Berg, Principal, Oak-Land Junior High, Stillwater School District

#### Teacher comments from Cottage Grove Middle School:

"Excellent speaker. Our students really enjoyed the presentation. (Reggie was) very funny, yet got a serious message across. (He has) great rapport with students."

"Great! Energetic and friendly...because he connected with so many kids, they were open to his message." "Great job! Stories, stories and more stories! Kids love to put themselves in the speaker's place."

"An amazing story behind this speaker, which really hits home with the kids. (Reggie is the) best speaker I've seen!"

"This presentation was wonderful...the students were very involved!" *Robin Francis, Assistant Principal , Cottage Grove Middle School*