

Hey, I don't know how long it's been since you listened to *Let's Rather Drink Muddy Water* from Little Milton's *Little Milton: Live at Westville Prison* album, but, in case it's been a while, I'd like to remind you of something. As he's warming up the crowd, he invites them all to clap along and gives a piece of advice.

It's your show, so you may as well get in it.

In other words, if you're going to be a part of something, you should throw yourself at it.

You know, there are former East Tipp students who come back to visit every year who say they wish they'd followed that advice. They wish they'd taken advantage of more of the unique opportunities at East Tipp before they moved on to the big and scary high school. We can't let that be you! I want you to squeeze every drop out of this little school in the middle of Corn County before they drag you out of it!

If you're interested, I've put together (in no particular order) a few items below that I would consider to be a good representation of *The East Tipp Experience*—whatever that means. Some of them are easier than others. How many can you do this year? (I put check blanks next to them because I know you're going to need them for your scavenger hunt of awesomeness!)

- Bring food for the Food Drive.** That one should be pretty easy— and you may have already done it twice.
- Join a team or club.** It could be an athletic team, the yearbook, the Lego League team, the Jazz Band, the Spell Bowl Team, —
- Earn an XM Tour point.** Contests are held throughout the year; if you show up at one, you'll get your point.
- Go to a 'Night'.** It could be Fine Arts Night, Culver's Night, ... anything the school promotes as an East Tipp event.
- Sit with more than 25 people at lunch.** No, not all in one day— and not just as a three-second joke to say you did it. Really spend some time with more than just the same table of kids all year. Meet some people; do your own Mix-It-Up Day from time to time.
- Be in the Talent Show.** Perform with a group if that makes it easier. Remember, talent is not required.
- Jump up for Public Humiliation.** It's like being in the Talent Show, but with less impressive of an act— if that's even possible.
- Go to something that kids don't always go to.** Lots of kids do an awesome job of supporting our athletic teams from the stands. But how about going to the Lego League competition? Or a band concert? Or the Spell Bowl?
- Talk to the entire school at once.** You could do this by leading the pledge when we're in the gym, doing something on the daily announcements, or even participating in the spelling bee.
- Help someone who needs help.** Try to do something more substantial than picking up a pencil for someone. Maybe you could take care of a new kid. Maybe you could help someone with a topic in class that's not making sense to him. Maybe you could convince a friend to break his leg so you can carry his books? (You're technically helping someone when you bring food for the food drive, but don't count that twice.)
- Stop something that needs to be stopped.** This is an important one. Consider stepping up to put an end to something that's going on (maybe in the hallway or on the bus) that shouldn't be. If you feel like you need help with this one, let me know.
- Without telling him why, encourage a sixth- or seventh-grader to do one of these things with you.**
Let this train keep on riding, riding on through. I assume you know what song that lyric is from.

As you looked at the list, I hope you noticed that it consists of things that **anybody** can do. There's nothing that requires you to win a math contest, to get people to vote for you as student council president, or to score twenty points against Battle Ground. Those are all great things, but I wanted to make sure that whatever what on the list was accessible to all of us.

If there are four items on the list you think you can do this year, I hope you do five. If there are seven, I hope you do eight. And if you do them all, please let me know. Have a great time!