

1st Quarter Reflections



In some ways it is hard to believe that one-fourth of the school year is already history. I have some mixed feelings about it. On the one hand, I feel that we've made some good strides. Yet on the other, I feel that we have so much farther to go. The truth is that there is ample data to support both of those feelings.

If you were to ask me what my goals are for this school year, I would tell you that I have three: 1) To establish better communication within the school itself, and among the school and its stakeholders; 2) To earn the AdvancED Accreditation for our school; 3) To establish stability in the school administration and the school in general.

The communication goal may seem pretty vague, but I believe we have taken some concrete action towards that goal. We created a new school website that is constantly being updated with information about what is happening at school. Also, the electronic version of the Thursday envelope has replaced the paper version. We've heard positive comments about that upgrade. Administratively, we have tried to respond to parent questions and calls promptly. Usually this is a 24 hour turnaround. Occasionally that has stretched a little longer, but I think we have been pretty responsive. The only problems that I am aware of have been when email was used as the mode of communication, but those have been few. Another thing we're doing is that each week we put a short blurb in the church bulletin about something that is happening at school. The majority of our parishioners are not parents of students who attend our school, and yet, they support us financially. Perhaps this is an area we should expand upon down the road. Finally, we've tried to do a good job communicating by being open with staff and students.

The AdvancED Accreditation goal is very specific. This entails preparing documents, putting procedures in place, and developing plans that will improve our school. Some of this was done before I got here. For example, the development of the vision and mission statement was already completed. Earlier this year we underwent a self-assessment process with teachers. We are also surveying parents, staff, and students. This information, along with student achievement scores and other data will be used as we move forward with this process. Our goal is to have this in place by the end of this school year.

The third goal, establishing stability in the administration, is difficult to measure. It includes a lot of things. It means we have to suit up and show up, and be visible around the school. Also, it involves an expectation of consistency. This means less staff turnover, good decision-making, and rules and procedures that are fair and known. This can only be accomplished over time. Admittedly, none of us can know the future with

certainty, but your school administration has every intent to be here for several years and we will work to establish this type of stability.