

Balancing Act



One of the things I was working on the week before Thanksgiving was planning for next school year. We have a lot of things we want to accomplish and in order to get things in place we need to start planning now. One of the most difficult things is getting the calendar set. The saying, *You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time*, is very true when dealing with the calendar.

When developing our calendar we have to consider what the Archdiocese is planning. For example, we had to change the calendar this school year because they scheduled the 6th Grade Vocations Day after we had already developed and published our calendar. A big event for next year is that they are requiring all teachers in all metro Catholic Schools to participate in the new *School of Faith* staff development program. This will take 10 half days spread out over the course of the school year. We can request specific dates, but there is no guarantee that we will get them.

There is also the Archdiocesan Fall Conference Day that is still up in the air. That would take another full day.

Also, we share certain services and programs with the Papillion La Vista Public School District, for example, hot lunch, special education, HAL, etc. That doesn't mean we have to follow their calendar exactly, but it would be a benefit to us and our students if we kept our schedules somewhat close.

Our primary professional development focus in academics next year will be in math. I have been trying to schedule and confirm some training dates with presenters for this, and they have their own schedules to balance. If they could just give me the same 10 half days that matched the Archdiocese half-days, I'd be set! Well, not exactly, because I requested some of the Archdiocese half days to be at the end of the quarter and so the other half-day will be for teachers to work on report cards.

Add to all this the myriad other "suggestions" I get such as we just shouldn't be starting the school year so early, we don't want to go past Memorial Day, parent-teacher conferences weren't very convenient, we need the day before Thanksgiving off, be careful not to go over on teacher contract days, and on and on.

It becomes quite a puzzle and, as you can guess, moving some things can cause a sort of domino effect. Some things I have no control over. Other things I have to prioritize and do the best I can. The pieces will all eventually fit together, but like a jigsaw puzzle, not everybody is going to love the final picture.

Yours in Christ,
Jim Makey, Principal