



President's Reflections

by Dennis Doughty



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I am excited and prepared for the new school year. We have a lot to accomplish with the students that have been placed under our care. We are fortunate, here, to have the opportunity and challenge in a school where prayer and service can be a focal point along with our academics. It is the job of our educators to help our young people to excel academically while having a Faith-filled experience on a daily basis.

As we begin a new school year, I wanted to share this reflection which I shared with our teachers:

“My overall philosophy of the education process is based on my own experience of forty years as an educator and having worked in some rather challenging environments during those years. To summarize, ‘we will work with all students regardless of their upbringing or demographics and, most importantly, we are here for all students even those who have the greatest deficits (academically or spiritually).’

“Years ago, I was meeting with my math department and discussed the “hole” some of our less than ambitious students dug themselves into as freshman. Some seemed to never recover and ultimately became a dropout. I challenged our most senior teacher and department head, who taught the upper level students, to find a solution to this very challenging problem.

“His response was refreshing and selfless. “Let me teach those students who have failed and are seemingly going nowhere. I want to see firsthand where they are at and what it will take to turn them around.” That teacher was assigned forty-two students who were largely unmotivated and simply didn’t care about math or attending school.

“Thirty-eight of those students passed math for the first time under the direction of that teacher who demanded more than any of their previous teachers. He taught them with deep care, compassion and varied techniques. His classroom management skills were second to none and those students thrived in that environment. They learned.”

Here at Norwalk Catholic School, we are fortunate to have students who are largely motivated by their background and family commitment to education, yet our task, as educators, is still very daunting. We will take our students to new levels, and will provide them with educational experiences that will take them beyond their expectations. We have the opportunity to provide them vehicles of learning that will open doors for their future.

We have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students no matter what our job assignment is and we will succeed. Our roles are all very important and we take is seriously. We will reach out and touch lives that really need us. We are fortunate to be part of Norwalk Catholic School and we are so thankful you are a part of our Flyer family.