



President's Reflections

by Dennis Doughty



April 17, 2015

“He’s Picking on Me!”

“He’s picking on me...make him stop!” Unfortunately, this is a fairly typical “back and forth” that goes on at times in families and in the classroom. I remember those words from my own children and as a classroom teacher. It seems that children develop a pecking order and will implement this process and sustain it unless they are made aware of no tolerance for such behavior and they develop a mutual respect for each other. Sometimes the interruption of such behavior comes in the form of punishment, humanizing, shaming and moralizing or through an abrupt attention getter.

***“So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”
(Luke 6:31) – The Golden Rule***

The third portion of our Mission Statement calls for Norwalk Catholic School to “Foster a Respectful Community” in our students and community. This can be a challenge for our young people as they are developing physically, emotionally and spiritually. Simply stated, it is the expectation of our school that students will treat each other, their teachers, parents and community with mutual respect. We believe in the inherent goodness of the “golden rule” and all it stands for.

The staff and students of NCS have dedicated this year to develop a stronger culture of respect. There are a number of initiatives that have been implemented to foster this development including an emphasis on scripture: Corinthians 12:4-6. *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”* We have been able to utilize the Teen Leadership Corps (high school students) to work through various topics that associate respect and everyday life with our 5th & 6th graders. From working through a manners initiative (Etiquette School of Ohio) to the 40 Developmental Assets, there has been a concerted effort to develop a better environment in our schools.

The next step in this year’s focus on *Fostering a Respectful Community* is to have Dr. Mike Thomson come and speak to students and parents. Dr. Mike will address parents and help them better deal with the challenges associated with our young people. Dr. Mike will provide proven strategies that really work for parents. Parents should mark your calendars for Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Joan C. Camp Auditorium. This will help our parents become part of the solution to an age-old problem.

We really encourage you to join us on April 23rd at 7:00 p.m. so we can continue to develop plans to improve our school culture. Learn to become part of the solution. Together we can achieve more!