Cultivating a Positive School Climate

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Catholic Education Office
20 Archbishop May Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

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You're the Reason I Come to Work Everyday

As you awake each morning, what gets you out of bed? Is it a person that flashes before you before your eyes open? Is it your zeal for living, or your joy that flows from your faith in God? Last fall, teachers were asked to consider students who inspire them to come to work everyday, and they recorded their responses.

Here is the link to an ABC News video you may enjoy: *Teachers Tell Individual Students How Special They Are, Tears Ensue*

The concept is simple. Take time to talk one-on-one with students about the meaning they bring to your daily experience as an educator. When was the last time you or your fellow teachers openly acknowledged the God-given dignity in each student in your school? An idea such as this one may need some modification for your building, but this is one sure way to promote a growth mindset in adults and their students. As a staff, discuss ways that you celebrate and acknowledge the goodness in individual students. Do you do this for parents, too? For one another? Here is the popular prayer to serve as a reminder by Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ.

Fall in Love

Nothing is more practical
than finding God,
than falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.

From ***Finding God in All Things: A Marquette Prayer Book*** © 2009 Marquette University Press.

About the 2017 RD Summer Institute

Any comprehensive effort requires adequate training, and Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD) is no exception. Many existing initiatives that address bullying focus on teaching students strategies for handling aggression. But VBRD is a systemic model that builds an infrastructure for strengthening relationships through the practice of holy habits of virtue. This takes time and effort, but the results are rewarding both personally and professionally for adults willing to learn restorative strategies. VBRD offers a transformative approach to handling the daily behaviors that compromise a positive, productive, and safe learning environment.

The Institute offers a 3-day comprehensive training in virtue education and restorative practices. This combination of skills results in personal transformation and deepens the message of the dignity of the human person for self and others. Adults can then be the true change agents in fostering the climate young people need, supporting safety and academic excellence. Learning and practicing the strategies and skills, participants can then facilitate a way for those who harm others to return to goodness through formation and service.

Who should attend the 2017 RDSI?
Bring a team of administrators and staff. New and returning schools will learn from nearly 200 attendees nationwide.

Is it only for schools implementing VBRD?
No. Anyone in parish ministry is welcome to a special reflection and light dinner reception on Tuesday, June 13.

How can we register? Go to www.rdtraining.org for details and to register online. There is no money due at that time.

What if we need financial assistance for our team?
Contact Lynne Lang, lynnelang@archstl.org, to discuss your needs.

We need help getting parents involved. What can we do?
Our June 13 special event is being sponsored by a newly formed parent organization committed to virtue and restorative practices. Social Action & Virtue Education (SAVE) will share their mission and work, so encourage your parent team to come and hear about this new community project.

Special Event
A Community Reflection
Restorative Relationships and Holy Identity

Presented by

Monsignor Jack Costello, Pastor at St. Peter Parish, Kirkwood

Biblical perspective on Restorative Principles & Practices
*Empower parish/school communities to enhance
the quality of relationships at every level*

This presentation is open to anyone

For 2017 RD Summer Institute registrants
Educators & Professionals
Parish Leadership
School Boards
Parents

Tuesday, June 13
3:00 – 6:00 PM
Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Drive
Shrewsbury, MO 63119

Ordained in 1972, Monsignor Jack and his family have been part of the Kirkwood community for over 50 years. He has served in various roles before becoming pastor of St. Peter, Kirkwood, in 2005.

His dynamic preaching style connects Catholic faith and tradition with contemporary culture. Monsignor Jack shares his commitment to living the Gospel message in the face of 21st century challenges by recognizing the one most important table we gather around is the altar. In 2016, Msgr. Jack was honored with the *NCEA Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award*. This recognition celebrates his outstanding efforts, contributions and achievements on behalf of Catholic school education.

His message on Restorative Relationships and Holy Identity will provide a deeper understanding of the biblical roots of restorative principals and practices, and God's plan for relationships with holy habits of virtue.

This event is included in the registration cost for RD Summer Institute participants
$10 per person for guests attending this event only – anyone is welcome to attend.

Check those that apply
☐ Pastor
☐ Principal
☐ Board/Council Member
☐ Special/Other _____
☐ Parent

To register for this Special Event, mail payment and registration to:
RD Summer Institute, P.O. Box 220843, St. Louis, MO 63122
Checks are payable to: RD Summer Institute

School/Parish Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

_____YES, WE ARE REGISTERING _____ PEOPLE FOR THIS OPTION X $10 = TOTAL COST: _____