

March 4, 2010

Brothers & Sisters in Catholic Education,

I have been quoted as saying "... there really isn't much new in education these days. It's just a rewording of what has already been tried." As evidence of this look at something I came across from the life of St. Augustine.

St. Augustine lived in the 4th century. He introduces the theory that there are three different categories of students and he instructed his teachers to adapt their teaching styles to each student's individual learning style. Does that sound familiar? It should. It is the very thing we currently do; only we call it *differentiation* now days and we speak about teaching to individual modalities.

I find an urge to chuckle when people who have not set foot into a K-12 classroom longer than time to say 'hello' want to speak as experts. The true experts are the dedicated K-12 educators who put in 15, 20, 25 plus years of providing the best educational opportunities available. When you consider what St. Augustine knew over 1600 years ago is what we still do today that one size education does not fit all, you come to the realization how much effort it takes to do the good work our teachers achieve.

We hear all of the time about the failure of schools in certain areas of our country. In most of those situations the problems are solvable if we recognize that those schools must accept anyone who sets foot inside their doors. St. Augustine stressed to his student teachers the importance of always responding positively to the questions of the learner.

The advantage of a place like we have here at Our Lady's School is that we are free to combine, as St. Augustine espoused, a blend of religious foundation into what we teach and how we teach it.

Meanwhile, back in the current moment, we are in the middle of the IOWA tests for the 5th & 3rd graders. The Laker Leaders continue to grow in their leadership roles, The students continue to add to their 'stop & go' lights for Lent, a new teacher driven tutorial program will soon begin, and plans for the 2010-2011 school year are underway.

Please continue to stay in contact with your student's teachers. Don't let this fourth quarter become a 'back slider'.

May Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, our patroness, look favorably on all the families of this school and ask her Son to intercede on our needs.

Your Servant in Catholic Education,
Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator