



St. Edmund's Academy
An Independent School

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Head of School*

"Keeping In Touch"

REFLECTIONS

By: Dr. William L. Kindler, Head of School

At the time you are reading these reflections, I will have completed six months as Head of School. Throughout the three plus decades I have been immersed in independent education, I have found it difficult to write this type of letter. My experiences become increasingly cumulative and broader in scope and exposure. What can I say or report that gives you the reader a special or unique insight into St. Edmund's Academy that would be of interest to you or give you pause to think further about a comment?

You see I am a perpetual student of human behavior and my chosen field is to learn from and give back to private independent schools. I am not an expert in nor a highly credentialed educational leader expounding what is best for children in today's complex society and world. I am a teacher and a student committed to working along side of others in a school setting trying our very best to impart to those we serve the finest learning tools available, which embody the array of skills and support systems they will need as they move up the ladder of schooling and personal success.

Without hesitation I can say that St. Edmund's Academy does live its mission. The abundance of opportunities for each student to excel in all areas of growth and development over a span of eleven years exists in a flowing and ever changing curriculum. Curriculum here is defined as everything that happens to a child under the auspices of St. Edmund's Academy. To have the Core Values as our mission's anchor defines the frame of strength that has held now for sixty years with an unlimited capacity to continue in the future.

Thank goodness for this revered and acclaimed frame of strength as St. Edmund's Academy joins with all other educational institutions in being bombarded with the ills of society, the often unrealistic expectations of parents and other well-meaning forces, the child and adult emotional outbursts that come with being human, the inordinate number of stresses (being in control) which move into the arena of distresses (loss of control) within the school community, and the increasingly difficult task to provide as well as justify the urgency for more and more resources (not just money) to achieve often that which is not achievable.

On September 4, 2007, the small school ship SEA launched for another year's voyage in the ocean of humanity to its next port of call where it will dock on June 4, 2008. So far the journey has met over-all expectations as assessed by the key stabilizers of adequate funding, a strong crew, well portioned resources, and an enthusiastic, eager to learn group of student passengers from ages 3-14. The daily bumps (problems) along the way are receiving the attention they deserve with mixed reviews depending upon the solution preferred by those involved.

Now for the final and most important reflection. I remain fortunate to be aboard the ship SEA and privileged to be a member of the crew serving an awesome group of young passengers. An exciting existence in exciting times.