

Weekly Eagle News – Head of Schools

My Favorite Parents:

Happy New Year!

I am looking forward to a new semester of learning across our four campuses!

Speaking of learning, I was thinking during this break about the importance of being a lifelong learner. There is a kind of joy and humility in that. Let me explain. Joy, because I believe that God has made us in such a way that we more fully reflect his image in us when we continue to explore and understand the world he has made. Humility, because continuing to learn (and certainly in exhibiting the effort to do so) demonstrates our recognition of the fact that we do not have all the answers, that there is still room to improve.

I do think it is important that as the leader of the school I exhibit this characteristic as well. Trust me, I find ample opportunities to be brought face-to-face with my own need for continuing to grow and learn as a leader!

Currently, there are three primary ways that I am doing this in my life. Professionally, I am doing an executive leadership program with the [Van Lunen Fellows Program](#). This year-long study program provides outstanding instruction, opportunities to connect with strong Christian school leaders and engagement with some really helpful books and ideas. Further, I also do an experienced heads of school monthly call/book study with school leaders from around the globe. We are using the book *Flourishing Together*, a highly-regarded compilation of the research on what creates thriving Christian schools that produce outstanding graduates. Finally, I serve on the national board for the [Council of Educational Standards and Accountability](#) (CESA), the organization for Christian schools that promotes commitment to Christ and academic excellence. This gives me the chance to interact with many of the best Christian school leaders gaining wisdom and learning best practices.

Spiritually, I seek to continue to learn as well. In [our church](#), I serve as part of the teaching team doing the message on Sunday mornings once every six weeks or so and also lead a small group that meets at our home. Both of these things push me into God's Word in a manner that I would not do in regular Bible reading. I love this!

Finally, there are personal opportunities for continued learning. For the last couple of years, I have been part of a book club with some school Dads that has met at my home. I keep a nightstand of books I am working on usually on topics of interest that push me beyond who I currently am. Even the crazy adventure that Jody and I are doing with hiking hundreds of miles on the Pacific Crest Trail is a form of learning.

Keep learning!

Brian