



Friday Focus 9/30/22



I haven't been this excited about a Friday since last Friday.

FRIDAY FOCUS:

It's 10:49 Friday morning. I have no idea where I'm going with this FF write-up; there are a great many things in my head and in my heart today, so let's see where my ramblings take us this Friday.

After last week, this week has been rather quiet and uneventful - not complaining about either. Oddly, in the midst of the quiet week, some tension, consternation, discontent, and/or disgruntledness has come to the surface. Perhaps these negative vibes are not new and my observations and noting them is owing to it being quiet. Or perhaps they are newly minted and resulting from new or recent situations, changes, or other variables.

Regardless, they do not concern me. This lack of concern is not owing to, in any way, shape, or form, a lack of their validity, worth, or importance. Quite the opposite in fact. The lack of concern is also not because such vibes are far and away out tallied by the wonderful, exciting, and positive things happening at HHS on a daily basis. The lack of concern is owing entirely to the communication that is taking place around these exceptions to the generally positive vibes at HHS.

I have found myself a part of, hearing about, or observing from afar communication among both staff and students that involves speaking openly and honestly, listening with an open mind - for the purpose of understanding rather than being understood, and fantastic discussion aimed at solving problems rather than assigning blame. How cool is that?

On one hand, this is not a new thing or at all out of the ordinary in the hallowed halls of HHS. On the other hand, there seems to be something different.

Maybe visiting with peers at my principal PLC last week, hearing the wide range of struggles and concerns they carry, that are not at all unique to them alone, but shared by us all, somehow seem to weigh them down a whole lot more than they do me.

What's up with that? Easy! You are up with that! What do I have that they don't? The best damn staff and students on the prairie! Such that, "There is nowhere else I'd rather be, than right here, right now!"*

- It is now 11:20. Considering several interruptions during the authorship of this FF message, that's not half bad for a half hour.

*By the time you're reading this the no place I'd rather be than right here right now will not be right here right now.

GOOD ARTICLE / RESOURCE:

Did you know.....you can create quizzes in Google Classroom that are self-graded? No, I did not. That's sweet! The short video below shows you how. Disclaimer: I haven't actually tried this yet, but Mrs. Ketterling assures me it works. Turns out, this was covered in the training(s) back when HHS went to the Google platform a number of years back. So, this is a reminder/refresher for some and new to others.

[Creating Self Graded Quizzes in Google Forms](#)

THE PRINCIPAL'S PRINCIPLES aka The Gospel According to Mr. Gross:

It says in Proverbs that both death and life are in the power of the tongue. The tongue has the ability to create, shape, and mold. The root of insecurity is often found in the words of discouragement and degradation that have been spoken to and of a person.

Ideally, there would be a sufficient number of people in a given person's life who'd speak life-giving words & messages. However, if the people around a given person don't speak in this way, don't speak at all, or they speak derogatory words, that person will either be left uninformed or shattered!

In that vacuum of destruction, that person will try to understand their identity with insufficient or destructive input!

That person is supposed to sense his/her own need for and seek out those who will provide life giving or corrective input to counteract the emptiness & loss created by the discouraging or degrading words spoken or words not spoken!

This is an overwhelming task for anyone.

It is something I struggle with.

It must seem hopeless and impossible for a child!

Speak to your students, each other, and yourself with words that create, shape, and mold hope and give life.

THE COUNSELOR'S COUNCIL:

Re-set, re-adjust, re-start, re-focus...As many times as you need to."

I saw this meme on Facebook this week, and it stopped me in my tracks. So often I set goals for myself and start out toward reaching them with fervor and passion.

It doesn't take long for me to lose steam, and more often than I like to admit, I end up giving up in discouragement and disappointment (mostly in my failure to follow through--again.)

This happens in my personal life, and it also makes its way into my classroom and counseling. I have big ideas and great intentions...until things don't work out the way I hoped and planned. Enter self-doubt, self-recrimination, and ultimately self-defeat.

When I read these words, I was reminded of the idea of "failing forward." When a lesson doesn't engage and reach students the way I hoped, when I don't reach a daily goal I've committed to, or when I fail to give my best self to my students, it doesn't have to be the end of my lesson, my goal, or my effort. I can fail forward by taking a moment to reset, to readjust, to restart, and to refocus. It isn't the failure that matters. It's how we allow that to move us forward and make us better.

On this Friday, if you've had a week like me where you feel like things just haven't worked out the way you hoped and planned, take a moment with me to stop and breathe. Let's use this moment to reset. To readjust. To restart. To refocus. (And relax!)

THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO "HMMMMM?":

Inflation has gotten so bad that I found myself at the store the other morning needing gas, milk, and beer but only enough money for one.

I walked home and had a Grain Belt on my Cheerios.

FROM THE MOUTHS OF BABES ???:

"Have your dad call the school RIGHT NOW! I already know he has the school on speed dial because you're annoying!"

GUESS WHO said that for coffee next Friday.

ON THE CALENDAR NEXT WEEK:

Monday 10/3: JH VB vs Velva, JV FB vs. Carrington, JH FB @ Belcourt (last game)

Tuesday 10/4: VB (all levels) @ Benson County - Maddock

Wednesday 10/5: Late Start - Certified Staff Meeting

Thursday 10/6: VB (all levels) @ Dakota Prairie

Friday 10/7: FB vs. Grafton

LOOKING AHEAD:

10/12: Career and College Day

10/19: Bus Drivers' Workshop

10/20 & 21: No School - NDCEL Conference

10/30: One Act Play performances
11/1: FFA/FCCLA Labor & Pie Auction
11/14: Jr. High Vision Screening
11/23: Early Out PD

IMPORTANT:

Let Mrs. Olson and/or me know Monday if you have any lingering NWEA tests to complete.

GREAT QUOTE:

Words can inspire.
And words can
destroy. Choose
yours well.

Robin Sharma

AmyJalapeno.com