

Nazarene Educators Worldwide

To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.



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www.naznew.net

THE NEW

Current Membership Needed to Vote for NEW Council for 2017-2021

The Nominating Committee for Nazarene Educators Worldwide is organizing the ballot for the NEW Council for 2017–2021. Current membership for this school year is necessary in order to receive the ballot and vote. You must be a current member before May 1, 2017 in order to receive the ballot.

Go to www.naznew.net to obtain a membership. If you have questions about your membership status, contact Dan Harris at dharris@nazarene.org or call 888-644-4510, ext 2822.

Join NEW Educators in Indianapolis

On Friday, June 23, Nazarene Educators Worldwide will host a meeting of Nazarene educators. This meeting will take place from 12:15 until 5:00 pm—during the time of the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International workshop periods.

These events will include:

12:15–1:45 This will be a General Session to introduce NEW council members and a new Chairperson for the next quadrennium. Bring a lunch with you and enjoy the fellowship and networking opportunities with educators.

2:00–3:00 This will be a workshop with a panel of educators who will discuss current issues and events that affect educators today. We welcome your input on these issues.

3:30–4:30 This will be a workshop to learn how a Nazarene preschool or Christian school at your church can have a positive impact on your church and your community.

NEW representatives will be found in the USA/Canada Regional Exhibit from Wednesday, June 21–Sunday, June 25. Please come to the exhibit and say hello.

More details will be added as General Assembly gets closer. Watch for more news about these events.

Happy Easter



NAZARENE EDUCATORS WORLDWIDE
17001 PRAIRIE STAR PARKWAY
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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE





What did you say? What do you mean?

Submitted by Marilyn J. Dominick, Retired Public School Educator

Communication can be a valuable tool or can serve as a pick axe that will undo your good work and noble intentions.

You will have to excuse me this month, but my article is more of an editorial piece with a great deal of perspective through the eyes of recent family experience.

When I was working as a teacher and administrator, I heard many times about the importance of communication. The lack of it does so much damage! We have so many artifacts and examples of hard evidence on both our content and how our students are doing. We work diligently to use those tools to assess our students and ourselves as educators. We meet, we plan, we publish, we set goals, form calendars, and for the most part, stay on top of keeping on track with curriculum and student progress. So much effort goes into the process of educating, it is no wonder we experience fatigue.

My grandchildren are in sixth, third and first grade. I do appreciate all the great work their teachers do on their behalf. You can probably sense a “but” coming, can’t you?

Over the course of the past few weeks, I have learned of three separate instances where communication between school and family has not been as efficient and effective as we would hope. I am writing about those here, so that it might give a perspective that correct communication is sometimes lacking in our schools.

My granddaughter, who is in sixth grade, is a good student, but she works very hard to get good grades. Unlike her dad, she has to study! A few weeks ago, her class was assigned a wonderful project - to research their families and develop a detailed display, including a family tree. The teacher did a great job by communicating the expectations, even putting some high-quality examples on his website. My granddaughter asked me to help. We worked very hard, spending hours and days putting it together.
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Under the Surface

Submitted by Becky Ramsey, Christian School Representative

My least favorite job as a teacher is to discipline a student. My first thoughts about discipline is that the process steals time from my primary focus which is to promote education in the life of children and help them to acquire the knowledge that will take them to the next level in their educational venture in life. Too often it would be easy to quickly access the situation, make a snap decision as to the child who is most guilty, assign a punishment or consequence, and go on with the assignment or project of the day.

A teacher must realize that his or her primary focus is not necessarily the academics in the life of the child, but the development of the child—the whole child. Each student needs to grow academically, but also emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We must consider the whole child; and a good portion of that child is not always visible to the eye. Part of that student is under the surface. There may be emotions boiling within because of what happened at home the previous evening. Emotions can be swimming hot through the veins because of negative relationships with others. The physical side can be adjusted by what the student did or did not have to eat that day.

So how do we discover these things about a student? We need to take the time to ask questions when situations arise. Sometimes we need to get the students alone to ask those questions. It is best if we ask questions before those disciplinary events happen. We need to build relationships with our students in moments in and around times of learning.

There are activities that can build understanding as well as trust between students and teachers. Depending on the age of the child, the project can be in the form of art work, essays, or activities between students. One project I have found especially effective is to ask students to fill out questionnaires that include questions such as— (Continued on page 5.)



Can Technology and Business Transform

Education? Submitted by Lance Howard, Interim Chair of NEW Council

Can technology transform the field of education? I conducted a review of recent websites, articles, and scholarly research through a Google Search on the topic of Technology and Business Practice Transforming Education. I found a great wealth of information on the subject.

One such article had this statement regarding the digital transformation of education made by former US Secretary of Education (Arne Duncan). He states:

“Together, we have an unprecedented chance to reform our schools and drive innovation; a fantastic nexus of crisis, urgency, and opportunity.

We must dramatically improve teaching and learning, personalize instruction, and ensure that the educational environments we offer to all students keep pace with the 21st century.

We can get there with technology.

Together, we must work to make sure every child has a world-class education – one that prepares them to live, learn, and work in our increasingly interconnected world.”

<https://www.ed.gov/news/speeches/digital-transformation-education-us-secretary-education-arne-duncans-remarks-state-edu>

So, how is technology attempting to transform education? It is through new implementation of research-based best practices married with recent technological advancements. One commentator notes:

“Why is the technology-driven education gaining popularity despite its high cost? Technology is transforming education in a manner that dynamically involves students by replacing a teacher-centered model with a student-centered one.”

<http://edtechreview.in/trends-insights/insights/380-technology-transforming-education>

In a recent article by Julia Boorstin, “A Lesson Plan from Tech Giants on How to Transform Education,” she states:

“Tom Vander Ark, an investor in education technology . . . says, ‘It’s taken time to really develop new learning models that take advantage of platforms. But I think that you’ll see in the next couple of years that most schools become part of a platform network.

The tech giants are looking to tap into this market as well. Google, Microsoft, and Apple each offer free classroom tools for students and teachers. Google and Microsoft, in particular, have a very lightweight management system, and teachers around the world are adopting that and using it in class. We’ve seen this voluntary adoption of free and inexpensive tools that have created a real bottoms-up wave. Teachers aren’t waiting for their school board to adopt a platform.... The leading platforms are really enabling teachers to mix and match to meet the needs of individual students.”

<http://www.cnbc.com/2017/03/28/microsoft-google-and-facebook-see-billions-in-future-of-education.html>

This latest drive in TRANSFORMING EDUCATION is coming both from the grassroots level as well as from corporate businesses or education reform entities. One such entity, “TransformEd,” supports districts and states in effectively measuring, developing, and implementing research-based, scalable, sustainable practices and policies that help equip students with the mindsets, skills, and habits they need to succeed. This is achieved through Transforming Education’s Funders & Partners Make their Work Possible.

<https://www.transformingeducation.org/about/>.

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What did you say? What do you mean? by Marilyn J. Dominick

(Continued from page 2.)

The project was due on a Wednesday. On Tuesday, she had a painful headache and a fever. She went to school anyway, and she didn't tell her mom she didn't feel well. On that day, the teacher stated to the class that no one should be absent on Wednesday or he would know that they had not done their project! My granddaughter should have stayed home the next day. She was actually diagnosed with the flu later that day, but she went to school because of what the teacher had said.

Now, I am sure that the teacher had no evil intent, and he is a wonderful teacher. However, it reminded me that we really need to be careful of what we say to students. We are a major authority in their lives, and they take us very seriously.

The second example came through the use of an online student progress system that parents can access to get homework assignments, upcoming events/ projects, and interim reports on grades, etc. What an era in which to be living! Such a system should be a truly valuable enhancement to communication between home and school. Well... not so much. In this case, mom and dad check the "School Tool" at least three times each week to make sure their children stay on task with school work. By all indications, everything was fine with their two children. That is, until the Interim Report Cards were sent home. Emergency! Emergency! Your child is failing Social Studies. But, the online tool tells us she is doing well. . . . You get the idea. If your school has such an online tool for families, make sure it is up to date. And if someone is failing or his/her grade has dropped, pick up the phone, please. You will be a hero to the family. None of us like that kind of surprise!

Thirdly and finally, I have a grandson who was born two months early and has struggled, first to survive and then with developmental issues. He gets easily frustrated, and sometimes he acts out at school. A smiley face paper goes back and forth between school and home, indicating how his day has gone. It is a great tool. He has really good days, peppered with some pretty bad ones. Recently, on a Thursday, when behavior had been not so great, mom and dad received a phone call requesting that they come for an immediate meeting with all of his teachers and his principal. This brought lots of tears on the part of the parents, because the Committee on Special Education would be meeting soon to plan for next September. The parents approached the meeting, fearful that their son would be placed in an alternative setting. The mother is an elementary teacher, and she worried that this would start him down a path with less opportunity than a regular setting. During the meeting, strategies were discussed to handle the behavior issues, which were then implemented with great success. The CSE meeting was held. The parents learned that he is actually doing very well academically, and all services will remain as they are now for second grade.

The point is, the parents did not have to worry. However, they believed there was great cause for concern. Upon reflection, all parties learned how it could have been handled very differently to minimize alarm and get everyone on the same page.

I know I have written a book here, but recent events have just re-emphasized to me that we need to study the impact of our communication and consider how it will affect the receivers.

We are all on the same team - families of students and educators. Let's all strive to be as effective as we can be in our communication and working together!

If you have comments about this article, contact Marilyn Dominick at mjdominick77@gmail.com.



Can Technology and Business Transform Education?

Submitted by Lance Howard, Interim Chair of NEW Council

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One way they are helping TRANSFORM EDUCATION is through educator resources. They state they are committed to sharing what they are learning in order to help all education systems act on what is known today about MESH assessment and skill development. To do this, they translate findings from our day-to-day work on multiple projects and their extensive network of partners into scalable tools and resources that can help school systems improve outcomes for all students.

EDUCATOR RESOURCES (click for link):

[INTRODUCTION TO SEL: FOUR COMPETENCIES](#)

[GROWTH MINDSET TOOLKIT](#)

[SELF-MANAGEMENT TOOLKIT](#)

[SAMPLE CLASSROOM STRATEGIES](#)

[GROWTH MINDSET OVERVIEW](#)

[SELF-EFFICACY OVERVIEW](#)

[SOCIAL AWARENESS OVERVIEW](#)

[SELF-MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW](#)

[SOCIAL AWARENESS TOOLKIT](#)

If you'd like to learn about some of our educator resources in Spanish, email us.

<https://www.transformingeducation.org/resources/>

Another needed area of improvement is in the area of professional development. In their article, "Tips for Transforming Educational Technology through Professional Development and Training," they cite that teachers say they lack proper technology support, but schools can turn the tables on inadequate training programs using best practices.

<http://www.edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2016/04/tips-transforming-educational-technology-through-professional-development-and>

One final example of how business and technology partnerships have come together can be see through © GettingSmart.com's Smart List: 100 Middle & High Schools Worth Visiting <http://www.gettingsmart.com/2017/03/100-middle-high-schools-worth-visiting/>

So, business and technology transform companies and initiatives are making strides in education reform. Reviewing best practices and a timely review of recent websites, articles, and scholarly research on the topic yields a great wealth of information on the subject and a path towards improving education for all involved.

If you have comments about this article, contact Lance at mrlancehoward@gmail.com.

Under the Surface by Becky Ramsey,

(Continued from page 2.)

I wish my teacher knew the following about me. . .

The most difficult thing about school for me is. . .

School would be easier if. . .

What makes school interesting for me is. . .

You can design your questions to fit any type of situation that you as a teacher need to address at any particular time. The ultimate purpose is to dig deep and get under the surface of the emotions of the child. Find the ultimate good for the child which is the actual goal of every teacher.

If you have comments about this article, contact Becky at Ramseyfamily2771@gmail.com.

