

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Leadership Team Initiative
Morning Reflection
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Reflection based on Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice--the scripture tells us, Rejoice!

Rejoice means to be fill with joy, to enjoy the fruition of. Slow down and step back. Are your hearts stirring, do you feel gladness? Step back farther--can you see the joy on the faces of all the young lives you so carefully and meaningfully tend each day?

We are together to make joy--to shed the things that bind us, hold us back and drag us down to be fully alive in this work, this mission, this peace, this truth.

We in the Roche Center commend you for being here, for negotiating and planning and traveling and scheduling and rescheduling parts of your lives to be here. Take comfort--you have survived the grueling round of the last school year. Know that you are welcome in this space. Filled with God's grace and the companionship of colleagues and friends, you can make an even greater impact in the year that is on your doorstep. We give thanks to God for helping you say yes to all the small and significant decisions that have led you to this place, this space, this time here together.

And while these next 2 days will challenge you and your teammate or teammates about your mission statements, your academics, your brand and your technology plans, we will also be hounding you to rejoice.

This scripture passage boldly reminds us that "if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." We join together as brothers and sisters who share a profound desire to cultivate learning in a our schools that is true, honorable, and gracious--to think about these things. We join together to collectively yoke our hopes and desires to these things, to share difficult realities, to learn from each other and from our loving Creator, to listen, to understand. And we will do so rejoicing-- Rejoicing in the Lord, always.