

Notes from the LHSSF Principal's Desk

The last job description listed in my job duties states “All other tasks as assigned”. Over the past several years, this has come to include driving LHSSF student-athletes to and from Baltic High School. Why do I drive LHSSF students to Baltic? The reason is that we have formed a coop with Baltic High School to be able to offer our students the ability to compete in athletic programs that we otherwise would not be able to offer due to our small, but growing, student population. We coop with Baltic for boys’ football, boys’ basketball, and girls’ basketball.

This past week as I sat and waited for the boys to finish their practice I watched the rain fall. Sometimes heavy, sometimes light, and sometimes the rain would stop briefly for the sun to come through. I reflected on how all of the rain was making it hard for fields to dry up in order to allow farmers in to harvest their crops. I thought about all of the people who were affected by the flooding of basements or water over roads. I considered how athletic teams, like football and cross country, were having a hard time practicing due to the ground being oversaturated or not being able to practice due to lightning. I also imagined the people and the flooding devastation on the East Coast due to Hurricane Florence.

As I waited and contemplated how all of these unfortunate circumstances were from an overabundance of water, my mood started falling just like the rain. It was then that I looked up at the clouds and saw a sign from God: a rainbow. How easily it is to forget about the multitude of blessings and ways God has used water for the betterment of His people: Noah, the flood, and the rainbow (Genesis 6 – 9:17); Moses and water from a rock for the Israelites to drink while in the desert (Exodus 17:1-7); the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17); and finally our own baptism.

Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls is also richly blessed. We have wonderful students, loyal and amazing families, dedicated and passionate faculty and staff, supportive Association congregations, and fantastic supporters! We are blessed with individuals who are willing to help with fundraisers, no matter how big or small. God has given us a multitude of individuals who tell me that they constantly pray for the school. Generous donors believe in this God driven mission.

It is easy to look at LHSSF and see all of the things that are not going right or things we wish we could immediately fix. It is possible to start losing faith in what the school is doing and wonder if it will ever grow beyond a few students. But just like the rain stops falling and the sun comes out, things are also becoming brighter at LHSSF. However, if we focus on this combative perspective, we forget about the 36 students who have graduated from LHSSF over the past 6 years. 36 individuals who are attending college or working that are “World Ready, Faith Secure”. This coming May we will have another 9 students to add to this list, a list that includes individuals who are or are studying to become NASA engineers, DCEs, doctors, nurses, lawyers, bankers, construction workers, computer IT technicians, and teachers.

This year we have 42 students in the school family, a record enrollment and one we look forward to breaking next year. We are increasing the number of classes offered to students while also increasing our academic excellence. Our music program continues to grow especially now with the addition of marching band. LHSSF and Sioux Falls Lutheran School are currently working together to give students in 7th – 12th grade opportunities in marching band and track & field. Both schools are looking for more ways to partner together in the future.

Sure, there may be struggles. God allows challenges so that we may firm our foundation in Him. I can assure you the LHSSF Board of Directors and I are working with the South Dakota District Office and other individuals to address issues in order to make LHSSF even better and a stronger ministry partner for the area LCMS churches and families. I humbly ask for your continued prayers as no request is too small for our Heavenly Father. I would also invite you to become a part of the LHSSF tradition through being a Board of Director member, a prayer partner, a supporter, a delegate, or by simply passing along our information to a family you think would benefit from a great Lutheran high school education.

In Christ, Derek Bult, LHSSF Principal