

Thursday Thoughts
March 18, 2010
Carlton Rider
Principal

This will be an abbreviated Thursday Thoughts this week due to our visit this week by the External Validation Team.

As I mentioned before, an External Validation Team visits our school every five years to review our goals for the next five years. Preparing those goals is a two year process and involves the entire faculty. A smaller group of teachers, known as a steering committee, meets to up-date the school's demographic information and study data in order to determine possible goals. This is a year-long process. There are two goals, one is called the Catholicity goal, which is religion centered, and the other is the student learning goal, which focuses on student improvement in a particular area such as critical thinking. In reviewing our data from the past five years the validation team was impressed with our religion scores that were taken from the ACRE test that is given to our 5th and 8th graders each February. The data shows that our students know their religion and score above the national average in every area tested. These areas include knowledge of scripture, revelation, church history, the commandments, to name just a few. I always felt that our students did well on the ACRE due to the collaboration between home and school. Our children's first teachers of religion are their parents and that strong foundation certainly provides the basis for learning their religion.

In future Thoughts I will share the results of this team visit as well as more detailed results from this year's ACRE and Terra Nova Tests.