

CHALK TALK

FOR TODAY'S CLASSROOM

$$Y + 2 \frac{1}{15} = ?$$
$$Y = 7$$
$$X + 21^3 =$$



CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION BULLETIN

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October – Month of the Rosary

In October 2002 Pope John Paul II set forth his Apostolic Letter ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE. In the introduction he states the following:

“The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, which gradually took form in the second millennium under the guidance of the Spirit of God, is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness. It blends easily into the spiritual journey of the Christian life, which, after two thousand years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings and feels drawn by the Spirit of God to ‘set out into the deep’ (duc in altum!) in order once more to proclaim, and even cry out, before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour, ‘the way, and the truth and the life’ (Jn 14:6), ‘the goal of human history and the point on which the desires of history and civilization turn.’”

“The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer. In the sobriety of its elements, it has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb. With the Rosary, the Christian people sit at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of

Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.” (Source: www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/)



O Mary of Graces
by Douglas Hyde

O Mary of graces and Mother of God,
May I tread in the paths that the
righteous have trod
And mayest thou save me
from evil's control,
And mayest thou save me
in body and soul.
And mayest thou save me
by land and by sea,
And mayest thou save me
from tortures to be.
May the guard of the angels
above me abide,
May God be before me
and God at my side.

20 Basic Effective Teacher Qualities

An effective teacher

- is fundamentally a kind, caring person who listens
- possesses a deep understanding of the subject matter
- is self-confident
- believes s/he can make a difference
- has good communication skills
- is creative and interesting
- has an open mind: is willing to try new things
- is generally optimistic and positive
- has a curiosity about the world
- is resourceful
- has a sense of humor
- is flexible
- shows tolerance and is not judgmental
- is able to organize time and materials effectively
- can be described by the students as “with it”
- is energetic and determined
- demonstrates professional and personal integrity
- has patience and persistence
- is willing to “go the extra mile” for students
- acts as an advocate for all students

(Silver, Debbie. 2010. *Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers*. Nashville, TN: Incentive Publications. page 15.)



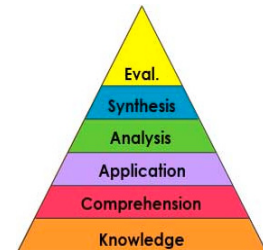
“Concerning a teacher’s influence, I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my personal approach that creates the climate. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanized or dehumanized.”

Haim Ginott

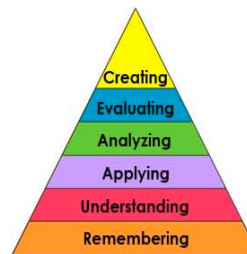
Tools to Enhance Instruction

From our earliest teaching days we have been aware of Bloom’s Taxonomy. None of us escaped our college courses without some reference to the taxonomy and how we were to use it in writing our lesson objectives. Yes, it was, and still is, an important tool in writing objectives designed to stimulate thinking in our classrooms.

The original taxonomy consisted of six levels beginning with knowledge and increasing in difficulty to evaluation. Over the years, we have all used this taxonomy and endeavored to challenge our students to think more critically.



During the 1990’s a new group of cognitive psychologists, lead by Lorin Anderson (a former student of Bloom’s), updated the taxonomy reflecting relevance to 21st century work. Note the change in the long familiar Bloom’s Taxonomy from nouns to verbs to describe the different levels of the taxonomy.



Let’s take a brief look at each of these levels.

1. Remembering ~ can the student recall or remember the information?
2. Understanding ~ can the student explain ideas or concepts?
3. Applying ~ can the student use the information in a new way?
4. Analyzing ~ can the student distinguish between the different parts?
5. Evaluating ~ can the student justify a stand or decision?
6. Creating ~ can the student create a new product or point of view? (www.odu.edu/educ/roverbau/Bloom/blooms_taxonomy.htm)

While some of us may still be trying to use the new version of the taxonomy in our lesson planning we are also being challenged with still another tool designed to help us challenge our students and prepare them for functioning in the 21st century. The new tool is known as the **Depth of Knowledge**.

The **Depth of Knowledge (DOK)** was adapted from a model used by Norman Webb, senior research scientist at the National Institute for Science Education, to align standards with assessments. The **DOK** is a tool used to ensure that teachers are teaching to a level that will promote student achievement.

The **Depth of Knowledge** is broken into 4 levels. Level One is the most basic level, essentially the “definition” stage. As the levels increase, students must demonstrate increasingly complex mental strategies. Higher levels of **DOK** require that students solve problems in new and creative ways, and allow for multiple solutions to solve those problems.

Future issues of *Chalk Talk* will discuss each of the levels in the **Depth of Knowledge** and examine ways in which we can employ it in planning our lessons. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more about the **DOK** just “google it” and you will find a wealth of information.



October ~ National Anti-Bullying Month

As a nation we declare October to be the National Anti-bullying month in order to bring more attention to the bullying going on in our schools and our communities.

Bullying does happen all too often...

- Bullying is the most common form of violence in schools(verbally and physically)
- There is one incident of bullying every seven minutes
- It is estimated that 160,000 children miss school everyday due to the fear of attack or intimidation by other students
- 2 out of 3 teens are verbally or physically harassed every year.
- 58% of teens have had hurtful things said to them online and over 40% say it's happened more than once
(www.dosomething.org/project/anti-bullying-month#video)

Following are some Web sites you may find helpful in planning activities during the month of October to “fight” against bullying in your school and community.

1. Speak Up (grades 2-8) www.learningmedia.co.nz/sites/all/modules/fitGmanager/files/OnlineActivities/speakup/speakup.html
2. Stopy Bullying Now (Grades 2-8) www.stopbullying.gov/
3. Do Something (Grade 7-12) www.dosomething.org/
4. Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use (Grade 4-12) <http://csriu.org/>
5. No Name Calling Week (Grades K-12) www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/resources/index.html

Feast Days in October

October 1	St. Therese of Lisieux	
October 4	St. Francis of Assisi	
October 6	St. Bruno	
October 7	Our Lady of the Rosary	
October 8	St. Pelagia	
October 9	St. Denis	
October 14	St. Callistus I	
October 15	St. Teresa of Avila	
October 16	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque	
October 17	St. Ignatius of Antioch	
October 18	St. Luke	
October 19	St. Isaac Jogues and Companions	
October 20	St. Paul of the Cross	
October 21	St. Hilarion	
October 22	Bl. Pope John Paul II	
October 23	St. John of Capistrano	
October 24	St. Anthony Mary Claret	
October 25	St. Daria	
October 28	Sts. Simon and Jude	
October 31	St. Quentin	
	All Saints Eve	



DID YOU KNOW?

- * 11% of people are left handed
- * The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes.
- * Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.
- * 85% of plant life is found in the ocean.
- * Rabbits like licorice.
- * Cats spend 66% of their life asleep.
- * The most commonly used letter in the alphabet is “E.”
- * The least commonly used letter in the alphabet is “Q.”
- * Skiing is the only word with a double i.
- * 1 googol is the number 1 followed by 100 zeros



"Living Faith, Giving Hope"

Ohio Catholic Education Association Convention
OCTOBER 3-4, 2011
COLUMBUS, OHIO

The "convention's theme of "Living Faith, Giving Hope" reminds us," states Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell, D.D., Ph.D., Bishop of Columbus "that there is a vital connection between how we live our lives and stay true to what is good. Our faith is to be a vibrant and lived experience. Faith is the wellspring that provides us with hope in a world that can, at times, be dark and challenging. We must always remember, though, that for our faith to be that wonderful source, we must strive always to live our faith truly and not go about each day in a passive manner. We are called to adhere to God's command to love and serve Him and one another. That is how we can stoke the fires of our faith and strengthen ourselves for the daily journey toward eternity."

Many of our teachers and administrators will be attending and presenting at the convention. What a wonderful time to grow personally and professionally. See you in Columbus!

Special Days in October

National Respect Life Month!

October 1	World Vegetarian Day	
October 2	Name Your Car Day	
October 5	Do Something Nice Day & World Teacher Day	
October 6	Mad Hatter Day	
October 7	World Smile Day	
October 9	Fire Prevention Day	
October 10	Columbus Day Celebrated	
October 15	Sweetest Day	
October 16	Bosses Day	
October 17	Wear Something Gaudy Day	
October 21	Count Your Buttons Day	
October 22	Make a Difference Day	
October 24	United Nations Day	
October 25	World Pasta Day	
October 28	Frankenstein Friday	
October 30	Nat'l Candy Corn Day	
October 31	Halloween	  

Proclaiming the Message of Christ



On September 23 the Office of Catholic Education ventured out into new territory...the digital zone. In an effort to provide a professional development session on the new elementary Religion curriculum to more than 2500 elementary teachers OCE "went digital."

It was the wish of Bishop Lennon that all teachers in the elementary schools have in-service that would give them deeper theological understandings of the material contained in the curriculum. Much thought went into planning for this in-service. The first thought was to provide separate in-service sessions in each of the three regions for the 750-800 teachers in each region. (Some of us remember those large sessions when the Diocese began work on Curriculum Mapping!!) We would do this four times throughout the year. Taking into consideration the cost of twelve presenters, finding a site for each of the twelve sessions, and providing refreshments and lunch at each of the twelve sessions it was found to be totally cost prohibitive to move in this direction. So, how do we provide this in-service to 2500 teachers?

Ultimately, the decision was made to hold four sessions for teacher "facilitators," record each of these sessions and then develop a "course" on Schoology so that we would be able to hold the four sessions for all 2500 teachers via the Internet. Our course on Schoology works similar to online courses one can take from colleges, universities, and/or professional associations. Our world of possibilities and offerings from the Office of Catholic Education is now almost limitless. Not only was the September 23rd in-service session conducted this way but the other three sessions will also be offered to all 2500 teachers through Schoology. Prior to each of the three sessions using Schoology, a group of teachers will participate in a live session so that they are better prepared to act as facilitators back in their school group.

Were we successful on September 23rd? After reviewing the evaluation sheets it appears that a vast majority of the teachers who participated in the day, felt that we were indeed successful. A small number of teachers did not find this way of "learning" particularly helpful, and some were just not really sure about it at all and did not find the day productive. Some found it too hard to sit for so long and felt that they were being "lectured" to. They would have liked more interaction.

On the next page are some of the comments from teachers who participated in the session on September 23rd.

"The speaker was very effective and did a good job of engaging the audience on a subject that could be rather dry."



"I liked the fact that we were broken up into grade levels because it allowed for more specific discussion and it was an opportunity to share different ideas for the classroom."

"The Schoology presentation was an excellent format to present to large numbers of teachers. The location of the conference was excellent. The technology worked very well."

"Our facilitator was great!"



"I found that pausing the video and discussing and reflecting throughout the video was helpful for my group."

"Wonderful presentation! Very fulfilling and enjoyable! The speaker was engaging and interesting."

"This was very well done!"

"I felt all went well...with appropriate breaking points. Much better than anticipated for a long day with a lot of sitting, listening, and 'attending.'"

"The speaker was highly effective. I received answers to many questions that I had about Christianity, Religion and my ministry as a teacher in a Catholic school. ... I am made even more aware of my responsibility as an educator and I feel stronger spiritually. Thank you for this session."

"The day went well. The host school did a beautiful job of organizing the day, communicating small changes that had to be made, and making everyone feel welcome."

"Sister McCormack (sic) was easy to listen to and she did a good job of relating to real-life experiences."



"Group instructor was great. Liked the small groups for discussion/idea sharing. Marvel at Sister Mary's ability to share information so complex very simply."

"Unique, effective way to present information to so many."



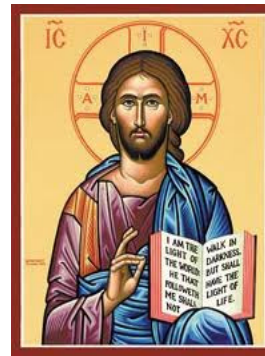
"Provide more ideas for practical use in the classroom."

"Very effective day! There's a lot to think about."

"It leaves me with many questions."

"Would like more opportunity to share ideas."

"At the end of the sessions I thought to myself — How can anyone be teaching the Roman Catholic Religion to children and not know what was discussed in the three sessions today?"



So, what did we learn from the September 23rd session? We did learn that the use of Schoology makes for an efficient and effective way to provide professional development to a very large number of teachers. And yes, we will continue to use Schoology in many ways in the months and years to come.

We also learned from your comments, that teachers find it challenging to sit and listen for an extended period of time. After all, we are all used to moving about and doing many different things in any one given day. As we move forward with our planning for the remaining three Religion in-service sessions we will take that into account. We will try to have shorter periods of "listening" and longer periods for discussion and sharing of ideas on how the content presented gives you a better understanding of the material you are responsible for teaching.

The dates for our up-coming sessions are as follows:

Live Session – November 11, 2011
Site Session – January 13, 2012

Live Session – February 17, 2012
Site Session – March 16, 2012

Live Session – March 30, 2012
Site Session – May 11, 2012

Facing History And Ourselves Fall Online Courses

Facing History and Ourselves will again be offering online professional development opportunities that are designed to invigorate your classroom with new, practical teaching strategies, and introduce you to a network of colleagues online. Participants can earn graduate credits and gain access to Facing History's free lending library of resources, multimedia educator resources, and ongoing support services.

I. Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior. October 10, 2011-December 14, 2011

Using *Facing History and Ourselves'* unique sequence of study, teachers will examine how history is shaped by hatred, indifference, and denial, as well as by caring, compassion, and responsibility. We will explore the range of choices that led to the failure of democracy and ultimately the murder of millions of Jews and other targeted groups. Throughout the seminar, we investigate the complexities of human behavior, judgment, memory, and how we can make a difference in the world today.

II. Choices in Little Rock: An Approach to Teaching the Civil Rights Movement October 6, 2011-November 23, 2011

In 1957, nine black teenagers faced the threats of angry mobs on their first day of school in Little Rock, Arkansas. Their attempt to desegregate Central High School ignited a crisis that historian Taylor Branch described as "the most severe test of the Constitution since the Civil War" and illuminated the question of membership in a democracy. Using our resource Choices in Little Rock, participants examine ways to engage students in the issues raised by the civil rights movement in the U.S. and their implications for today, as well as how to facilitate difficult classroom conversations about race and difference.

Please visit *Facing History and Ourselves* website for information about these and other online opportunities at www.facinghistory.org.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Elementary

- October 21 Early Childhood Workshop
St. Basil the Great
8:30am-2:30pm (K-2)
- October 25 Math/Technology Integration
St. Mark School
4:00-6:30pm (K-8)
- October 28 Physical Education Conference
St. Michael's Woodside
8:00am-2:30pm (K-8)
- November 11 Religion Curriculum: Live Session
St. Michael's Woodside
8:30am-2:30pm (K-8)

High School

- October 24 HS Theology: History of Church Part I
St. Michael's Woodside
8:30am-2:30pm (9-12)
- November 14 HS Theology: History of Church Part II
St. Michael's Woodside
8:30am-2:30pm (9-12)

All Grades

- October 12 Digital Citizenship Academy
St. Adalbert 4:00-6:30pm
- November 10 Digital Citizenship Academy
St. Thomas More 4:00-6:30pm

Where to Register? Have Questions?

www.oce-ocs.org/oce/register
Mary Polevacik, Administrative Assistant
mpolevacik@dioceseofcleveland.org 216.696.6525 x1059

Bible Quote of the Month

"And Mary said: My soul does magnify the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. Because he has regarded the humility of his handmaid: for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." Luke 1:46-48

Need Assistance? Have Questions or Concerns?

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