

Daniel Brennan

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I thought the Prep would be a school where students would be highly motivated and interested in modern foreign language. After doing practice teaching at a public high school during my senior year at LaSalle University, I was anxious to find an environment more conducive to academic excellence.

I have stayed at the Prep for 33 years because of the extraordinary sense of community which I have experienced, especially with Prep students. Their enthusiasm, their warmth, their candor and their unusual generosity.

There is a strong and genuine sense of fraternity among Prep students. Seniors go out of their way to make freshman feel welcome at the Prep.

Prep students are willing to express their feelings, their fears, their sense of "Prep Pride," etc. Several factors have contributed to this change in student behavior especially the Kairos Retreat Program, as well as the overall Retreat Program.

There have been several memorable moments. As Principal, I recall with pride going to Washington during the fall of 1985 to receive "The Exemplary School" banner from President Reagan and Secretary of Education, Mr. William Bennett.

On a personal level, I can still remember vividly giving diplomas to our two sons, Daniel, Class of 1984 and Matthew, Class of 1987.

Also, I will never forget the Baccalaureate Mass for the Class of 1991 after which I received an "Academic Chair" at the conclusion of my tenure as principal.

It would be impossible to pick a particular class since I was blessed to know so many wonderful classes. Students would be able to comment on my greatest contribution. I suspect they would mention my enthusiasm and love of the Prep. The Kairos Retreat helped me to understand that Prep students really do wish to know their teachers and their administration on a deeper level.

I believe that we are doing a better job of developing graduates who value both academic and human excellence. Given the mores of our society, Prep students are in the sensitive age of adolescence, so we must continue to provide not only a strong academic environment, but also a community which nurtures young people during these formative years.

There will always be a "Prep" if the Prep remains authentic to its Jesuit character and mission namely, to form young "Men for Others" for the Greater Glory of God.