



## St. Clare of Assisi School

*Principal Kim Vangel's Blog*

**October 22, 2017**

One of my “Three C’s” to work on this school year is “Climate.” Of course I am not talking about our crazy St. Louis weather, but instead, I am talking about the atmosphere at St. Clare of Assisi School, how we all treat one another, how things feel when you walk in the doors and are in our classrooms. Some say that all school improvement begins and ends with the school climate. In other words, if students, teachers, and parents are not treating one another with dignity and respect, it is very hard to bring them all together to make improvements in the school. To go a step further, in Catholic schools I would propose that we must all be treating one another with the Love of God to make real school improvements.

Don’t get me wrong – St. Clare of Assisi School is a wonderful place, filled with great teachers, terrific students and generous & supportive parents – I couldn’t ask for a better place to be! That said, we do have situations where we don’t all treat one another as we should; we are all human and therefore fallible.

So we are beginning the process to implement a program that will help us reduce harmful behaviors and restore relationships when harm has been done. It’s called Virtue-Based Restorative Discipline (VBRD) and it’s based right here in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis (just fyi, VBRD has grown into a national program!). There is a small group of us, eight to be precise, taking the introductory course on VBRD this semester. We are all focusing on one particular virtue to grow and develop within ourselves. My chosen virtue to develop is Prudence – basically the wisdom to make good and balanced choices and decisions. I face opportunities multiple times each day to try and display Prudence, and I will need help from all of you to grow this virtue – please help me by pointing out when you see it and when you don’t! We are seeing virtue all around us, and we are learning about behaviors that complement each virtue.



Eventually the entire faculty, all our students, and all interested parents will take part in VBRD. We will all work together to grow virtues within our hearts, and within & between one another. We will use the Cardinal and Theological Virtues to begin reducing harmful behavior and to restore relationships when harm has been done. Good stuff and we are so happy to be getting started on VBRD!