



## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL

1411 Lecaron Avenue, Sarnia, ON, N7V 3J1

Ph: (519) 344-1601 Fax: (519) 344-3886

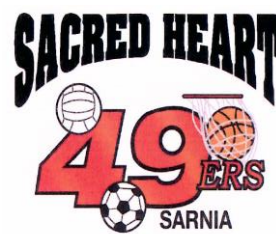
Principal: Mr. Wm. Nelson

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Tamara Johnson

Secretaries: Mrs. T. Green; Mrs. J. MacDonald

Director of Education: Dan Parr  
Superintendent: Laura Callaghan

Board Chair: John Van Heck  
Trustee: Michelle Parks / Linda Ward



## Week at a Glance for Families

*December 4, 2017*

### Monday, December 4

- Monday Liturgy 12:20pm
- Parish connections (knitting, crochet, learning about the Church) @ Sacred Heart Church Meeting Hall at lunch hour
- Junior Boys Volleyball practice at lunch hour

### Tuesday, December 5

- Starbright Group going to Victoria Playhouse at 1:10pm
- Grade 8 Faith Day at St. Pat's
- Choir practice at lunch hour



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### Wednesday, December 6

- Junior Boys Volleyball practice at 3:05 to 4:15pm

### Thursday, December 7

- FIRST Lego League meeting after school today to 4:30pm
- Junior Boys Volleyball Semi-Final Game @ St. Joseph School in Corunna @3:15pm

### Friday, December 8

- Christmas Concert rehearsal in the morning at the Church
- Starbright Group going to Victoria Playhouse at 1:10pm

### Saturday, December 9

- Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation at Sacred Heart Church 9am - 12pm
- FIRST Lego League Tournament at Rosedale Public School - 8:15am  
(Go Lego League 49ers!)
  - Doors open at 8
  - Coaches' Meeting at 8:30
  - Opening Ceremonies at 9:00
  - Judging to begin at 9:20
  - Robot Round # 1 begins at 11:40
  - Callbacks begin at 12:30
  - Robot Rounds # 2, 3, 4 begin at 2:00
  - Closing Ceremonies approximately at 4:00

### ATTACHMENTS:

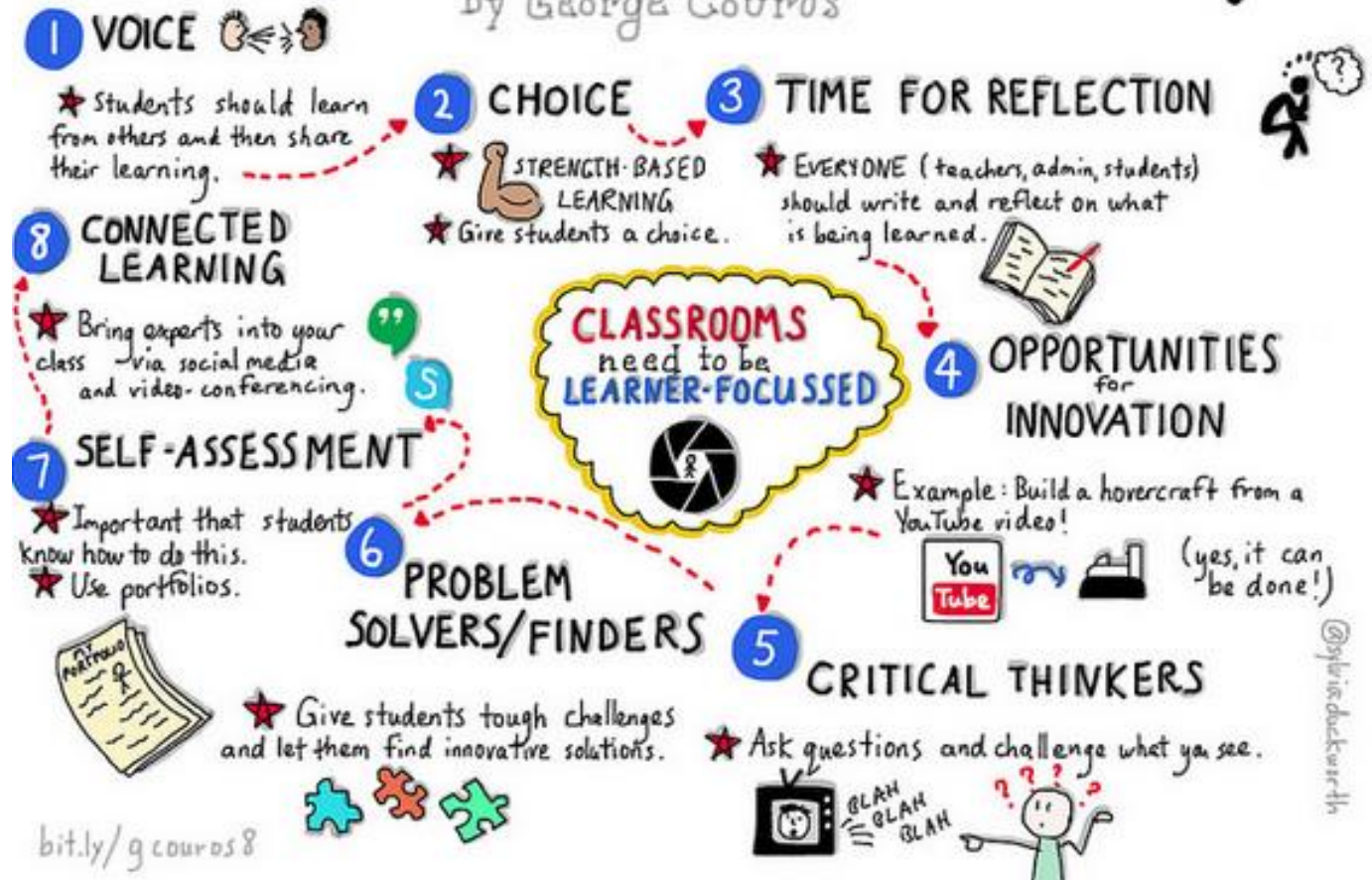
1. 8 Things to Look-For in Today's Classroom by George Couros

**Have a Great Weekend!**



# 8 Things to Look for in Today's Classroom

by George Couros



1. **Voice** – Students should have the opportunity to not only learn from others but also share their learning with others as well. We live in a world where everyone has a voice and if we do not teach our students to use this effectively, they will definitely struggle. To me, this is so simple yet so essential.

2. **Choice** – This is not only about how students learn, but also what they learn about. How do they further their learning in areas of interests to them? Throughout the first few years of university I did poorly, yet in my final few years my grades were better than they ever had been. What was the difference? I actually cared what I was learning about. Strengths based learning is extremely important.

3. **Time for Reflection** – Classrooms are an extremely busy place and I understand that many feel that they are rushed through the curriculum, but I think that taking the time to connect and reflect on what is being learned gives learners a better opportunity to really understand what they have learned. I know many classrooms have DEAR time (drop everything and read), so why do we not have time to simply write and reflect? This is not only for students, but for teachers and administrators as well.

4. **Opportunities for Innovation** – Recently I visited Greystone Centennial Middle School during “Innovation Week” and saw students that created a hovercraft (not kidding) using things that they had around the house. They were able to guide it around the gym and it was able to carry people around. These kids were in grade 9. When I asked the students about this opportunity, they had told me that they had saw something similar on YouTube but it was missing a few elements that they wanted to add. They made it new and better. I can only imagine what the students will do after they leave school because of this day, not in spite of it.

5. **Critical Thinkers** – In the “factory model” of education, students were meant to be compliant and basically do “as they were told.” This is not something that sticks with a child only, but goes into adulthood as well and it creates “yes” people who tend to lose all originality. One of my best friends and my first admin partner, told me to never just let him go out on his own with his ideas without questioning them and sharing my thoughts. His reason? He wanted the best ideas, not his ideas. He wanted me to ask questions. He wanted to be successful. It was not his ego that was important, but the success of his staff and students. I have learned to ask the same of all those I work with and although it can turn into spirited conversations, it is what’s best not only for school but all organizations. We need to have students that are able to ask questions and challenge what they see, but always in a respectful way.

6. **Problem Solvers/Finders** – Ewan McIntosh has a brilliant Ted Talk discusses the notion of “problem-based learning” and how it is not beneficial to give students problems that aren’t real. Instead, he focuses on the idea that students need to be “problem finders”; being able to find some tough challenges and *then* being able to solve *those* problems. Megan Howard shares a wonderful story of how one of her grade six students was able to see that there was a problem with classmates losing their school uniforms and then being able to use QR codes to be able to identify them. Let’s start asking kids to really look into finding what the problems are and giving them some purpose in solving something real.

7. **Self-Assessment** – I don’t think that I have ever heard a teacher say, “I can’t wait until we get to write report cards!” That being said, I think we spend too much time focusing on being able to tell others what our students can do and know, and not enough time helping students understand those things themselves. Portfolios are a great way to share this knowledge and will actually have students develop their own understanding of what *they* know. If you can write in a report card that a student can do something in October, yet they can’t do it in January, is that report card still relevant? I think that we should spend more time working with students to teach them how to assess themselves and not just do it for them.

8. **Connected Learning** – When I first started teaching, I remember really struggling with science. It was a subject that I struggled with as a learner and that continued on as a teacher. I now think that if I was in the classroom, that the best person to teach science wouldn’t be me, but a scientist. With most people having a computer and also having a Skype account, there are many that are willing to share their expertise in different areas. This does not only have to be via technology, but we should also bring in experts from our community to talk to students. I know many teachers have done this for a long time, but technology opens the doors to people that we could not even imagine being a part of our classroom even ten years ago. Even Shaquille O’Neal has made some time to Skype with students in one school.

Now I believe that all of these things are extremely important to the success of our students in the future, but there is one thing that is important to all of this; that our students are good people. One of the things that I have told my students over and over again is that it doesn’t matter how smart you are if you are considered a jerk. Treat others with kindness and consideration. Always.

Finally, let’s start to really tap into the wisdom of our rooms and have students not only learn, but teach each other. There is a saying from my time as a referee that the best officials are the ones that you never notice. Does the same hold true for a teacher? I have walked into classrooms and have been unable to identify who the teacher was immediately because they were, as Chris Kennedy would say, “elbows deep in learning” with their students. Students were also teaching others along the way. If we start to acknowledge that everyone can be a teacher, and everyone a learner, I really think that you will be able to see more of the elements I have discussed in our classrooms today.