

What's the Deal?+

What's the deal with those Student Learning Expectations?

The accreditation process as outlined by NCA / WCEA requires Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School not only to establish school wide Student Learning Expectations (SLEs), which we did back in 2002, but also to develop strategies for assessing those SLEs.

Over the past five years our faculty has worked hard to come up with a way to measure our SLEs. The faculty determined that the way the original SLEs were worded made it almost impossible to measure them. While keeping the content of the original SLEs the same, the faculty rearranged and reworded the SLEs to make them more measurable.

A graduate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School is

- An Active, Faith-Filled Christian
- A Self-Directed Individual
- A Life Long Learner
- A Critical Thinker
- An Effective Communicator

Once the SLEs were revised, the faculty worked to develop grade appropriate assessments for each SLE. The teachers then began to pilot those assessments with the students in the classroom.

The teachers worked to develop and revise Critical Thinker and Life Long Learner rubrics.

Because OLPH is a 6+1 Traits of Writing school, there was a natural connection to use the 6+1 Traits rubrics for assessing our students' ability to be an Effective Communicator in writing. The teachers then had to develop and revise a rubric to assess our students' ability to be an Effective Communicator in speech.

There seemed to be a natural connection between Discipline With Purpose (DWP) and our SLE, Self-Directed Individual. Any child who can practice the 15 DWP skills would be a child who is self-directed. Therefore the teachers are using the DWP rubrics from the book *Assessment Made Easy* to assess our students' ability to be a Self-Directed Individual.

Last, but certainly not least, our teachers have worked on developing a rubric for Active, Faith-Filled Christian; however it still needs to be refined and then piloted in the classroom with the students.

In January, every student in the school received their own SLE folder that contains the grade appropriate rubrics for each of the SLEs. The students will keep the folders at school and use them for reference in the classroom.

The SLEs are in the process of being aligned with the curriculum.

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