



Porter’s Reflection,

In 52 B.C., Julius Caesar recorded that “Experience is the best teacher.” It was not until Shakespeare’s time that a retort was recorded by an unknown writer: “Experience is the worst teacher, it gives you the test first and the lesson second.” Knowing that it took over 1600 years to come up with response, makes me feel infinitely better that I often think of the exact right thing to say as soon as I leave the room.

Our threat on Wednesday, March 8th comes to mind. We train for when a threat is realized and on campus – we work with our students on how to run from danger, barricade our rooms and defend our lives. Yet, there is no training for what happened on that Wednesday afternoon. We received a threat from a very credible source and had to make an action plan in less than 2 minutes. The first thing we had to establish, from the singular source was the credibility of the threat, and in the same moment we had to identify potential witnesses, reach out to the SJPD and our district office.

At no point did I doubt the credibility of the threat, but I did wonder about getting it wrong. What if the police show up and our witnesses can’t agree on the source? What if the SJPD find out it was a joke or a hoax and we are the school that cried wolf? What if the higher ups at the district office disagreed with our protocol and response? I always felt we were making the right decisions, but those questions hang on you like wet blankets – testing your endurance, your strength and limiting your movement. I would love to have had the lesson first.

As I reflect on that day now, I am thankful I have had the training New Tech has provided for us all. I was able to stay focused on a clear objective and outcome. I was able to be purposeful in my actions and in guiding those around me. Finally, I was willing to ask questions, listen to those opinions and incorporate them into my decision making process. I am not saying we got this 100% correct, in fact we are still learning lessons to this day.

These life skills we are trying to reinforce with our students will help them survive their own challenges with a calm mindset and clear focus on the goal. Our A/B days will be a great time to ensure that we are all focused on developing our shared skills and reinforcing them with ourselves and our students. You will have the time to help contribute to the development of our grade level pillars and you will have the chance to use our B day to develop or deepen your current implementation of PBL.

2018 Comet Calendar

Mar 12	Department Meeting
Mar 12	Allocation Meeting
Mar 13	ITL Meeting
Mar 14	ESTA/Admin Meeting
Mar 14	A Day (and student walkout)
Mar 15	B Day
Mar 15	LCAP Community Meeting 6pm
Mar 17	Vietnamese Student Awards
Mar 19	Connections Meeting
Mar 20	AD/AD Meeting
Mar 21	Connections
Mar 21	PD Meeting
Mar 22	Advisors off campus 8a-11a
Mar 23	Battle of The Classes
Mar 26	Department Meeting
Mar 27	School Site Council
Mar 30	Cesar Chavez Day
Apr 2-6	Spring Break
Apr 9	Connections Meeting
Apr 10	ITL Meeting
Apr 10	Latino Student Awards Night
Apr 11	ESTA/Admin Meeting

Week 28 Important Dates

Date/Time	Location	Activity
March 12 2:10 – 2:45pm	Dance Studio	Department Meetings
March 12 3-4:30 pm	District Office	Porter and Noemi validate 18-19 Staffing
March 13 8a – 12p	Dist. Office	Porter Off Campus
March 13 3:30-4:30 pm	518	ITL Meeting
March 14 10 am	Front of Campus	Student Walkout
March 14 1 – 2:45 pm	Dance Studio	A Day Staff Training
March 14 3:30-4:30 pm	Princ. Conf. Room	ESTA/Admin Meeting
March 15 8a-11a	Dist. Office	Thelma Off Campus
March 15 1-2:45 pm	Dance Studio	B Day Staff Training
March 15 6 – 7:30 pm	1303	LCAP Meeting