



August 27, 2010

Hello Everyone!

“Tradition is not wearing your grandfather’s hat. Tradition is having a baby.” I shared this quote from artist Pablo Picasso with our freshmen at their retreat at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College yesterday. I presented it as a thought-provoking challenge to them as the newest members of the Guerin Catholic community. Anyone familiar with Pablo Picasso’s paintings is probably not surprised by how odd the quote is, but it fit well with the message I wanted to share:

We have a great thing going here at Guerin Catholic, I told them. A new student such as yourself could easily float by and maintain the status quo, and we would still be a great school. Just seven years into it, we already have a solid tradition in place. It would be easy to grab your grandfather’s hat and slide it on – it is nice and comfortable and you could ride out your four years in peace.

Or, you could have a baby. (I asked the freshmen to *please* not go home and tell their parents that the principal told them to have a baby.) You could give birth to something new. The Class of 2014 could take what is great and make it better. You could put your stamp on this school. But having a baby, giving birth to something new and different, is not as comfortable as your grandfather’s hat. It takes courage. It means putting your lamp - your own special energy, your gifts, your talents – on the lampstand for all to see and by which all may benefit. It may actually be *uncomfortable* at times at you push yourself beyond what you thought possible.

We have spent the last several years working to get you here. CYO Nights, pizza lunches, leadership programs, Open House, and opportunities to shadow were all offered in the hope that you would choose Guerin Catholic. We presented our case, telling you what *we* could do for *you* if you joined our community. You made your choice. You are a Golden Eagle. You made a decision to wear purple. We will do our very best to fulfill our mission and follow through with all the things we told you we could do for you.

But now that we have you, we turn the tables by asking: What will *you* do for *us*? How will you make us better? What do you add to our community? Go ahead and wear grandfather’s hat. We are proud of grandfather’s hat and hope you are too. But to what will you give birth during your time at Guerin Catholic? I hope you will choose to make an impact on our school. We will both be better for it.

Welcome to the Class of 2014!

St. Theodore Guerin, pray for us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Wagner". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rick Wagner  
Principal,  
St. Theodore Guerin High School