

Coping with the Vortex of Change

Dan Jelinski and Jack Kelly

This article is reprinted from the *Religious and Moral Education Council Newsletter*, volume 21, no. 2, March 1995. The points raised are relevant to all of us.

1. Have a professional partner share your ups and downs. *Let's end the teacher as Lone-Ranger model. A team is always stronger than one person alone.*
2. Know your own weaknesses and strengths. *None of us teachers can really be Superteacher. Have an adequate assessment of who you really are and what you can realistically do.*
3. Give yourself an occasional knock on the head. *Force yourself to see things from a different perspective. You'll change.*
4. Be a real prophet. *Speak in "what if" instead of complaining about "what is."*
5. Correct as much as possible on the spot. *Manual correction of multiple choice is quicker than using machines.*
6. Communicate on paper. *Send ideas back and forth to colleagues on paper. Don't let rambling conversations get forgotten.*
7. Update your mark books constantly. *Make each course worth 1,000 points of work—you'll never need a calculator to figure a final grade.*
8. Fill out forms immediately. *Move things from mailbox to mailbox immediately.*
9. Differentiate your attendance. *Why must everybody come to every class?*
10. What is, is. *You have to accept some things.*
11. Have partner contacts. *Good students can share learning.*
12. Investigate alternative delivery methods. *Is the timetable a friend or a curse to education?*
13. Be good at what you do. *A real professional carries a lot of weight.*
14. Invite your administrators to be part of your journey. *Often, they are lonely and lost and want to be included if you just ask.*
15. Ride the coattails of administrators. *Know your strengths, work with them.*
16. Let administrators ride your coattails too! *When you win, they win too!*
17. Be in touch with yourself. *What are your feelings?*
18. Be holistic. *Take note of the whole person you are.*
19. Keep the big picture in mind. *One billion people in China don't really care about our problems.*
20. Live the moment. *Enough said.*

When you're young, you know a whole lot you won't know later.

—Margaret Lawrence

Blessed is the person who is too busy to worry in the daytime and too sleepy to worry at night.

—Leo Aikman,
Atlanta Journal Constitution