

2nd Habit of Highly Effective People/Teens.

Begin With the End in Mind, The Habit of Personal Vision, is based on the principles of vision, commitment, and purpose.

Often times we live by the premise of just “going with the flow” since we are convinced by others and ourselves that we cannot predict how life will turn out. Stephen Covey, on the other hand, challenges us to clearly define a purpose and vision in life that will make a difference in others, as well as ourselves. In the early stages of our Leader in Me initiative at Edgerton Local Schools, my staff and LIM leadership have spent time developing personal mission and vision statements. With a defined purpose in our careers, we can stay focused on the value of interacting with the people we work with every day in a positive, encouraging manner.

Imagine that you were invited to dinner with four or five people, past or present, who have had the greatest impact on you as a person. They are all sitting at the table with you and you are given the opportunity to express to them the qualities and attributes you admire most about them. For the first time, you are able to share with them how they had a positive impact on your life. What would you say to them? Maybe today you pause in the midst of a hectic week and write some things down about these individuals, or even better, pick up the phone and call them and set up a time to meet.

Through these conversations and experiences, we discover ourselves because it brings about self-awareness, and expands our imagination and conscience. Possibly as a result of these new initiatives, we begin to look beyond the ordinary workday or your continual responsibilities, and look to the future for exciting and fresh opportunities of service. For me can I prioritize my life to finally get out of the country on a mission trip? Can I gather enough courage to begin my Doctorate program? Will I finally learn how to play guitar?

What would be your list?

As Stephen Covey states, “Being effective means taking the time to define the legacy you want to leave in each of your key roles. These roles represent your most important relationships and responsibilities”. As I close, I would like to challenge you to visualize your 80th Birthday celebration. At the celebration are the key people from each role. What would you like them to say about the impact you’ve had on his or her life?

Begin with the end in mind,

Kermit E. Riehle, Superintendent
Edgerton Local Schools