Project Summary

1. Develop a comprehensive high school curriculum that will ensure that graduates from Lutheran High School Association Schools will be able to make a successful transition into college.
2. This is the first year of a three year curriculum improvement project.
3. Question addressed this year: “What do we want our students to know?”

Procedure:
1. Create department outlines, including mission statement, philosophy, and goals.
2. Select standards that provide the basis for the learning expectations for each course in the curriculum.
3. Create a common curriculum.

Project Results

• The faculty of the LHSA met in August of 2007 to begin developing and organizing the new curriculum design.
• Over the summer, faculty members will be working on the development of course outlines and syllabi, following the templates they were given.
• For the first time in the LHSA history, faculty have worked together to answer the question “What do we want our students to know?”
• The finished document that each department has produced captures the essence of who we are and what we are about.
• The department outlines that have been created will provide guidance and direction for each of our schools for years to come.
• Now that the difficult work of developing them has been done, modifications and enhancements to them as time goes on will be easily accomplished.

What We Have Learned

• Principals: Give responsibility for aspects of the project, then hold them accountable.
• Teachers: Guide and direct.
• Leaders: Appoint a leader in each department.
• Directions: Do not assume teachers will follow directions.
• Deadlines: increase number with less due at each to break the expectations down into more manageable pieces.
• Communication: Always check for understanding. Rewrite, rephrase, and reword your communication.

I have personally learned:
• To be flexible, delegate, and not to assume anything.
• Communicate clearly and often.
• Treat people differently with their response to change.
• Keep candy bars close by.
• Pray often and truly release things to God!