

Victor MacClean, Principal- Participant of PTC Curriculum 2019



“My experience is nine years as head of boarding, six years of living curriculum and postural. Um, my biggest regrets are often linked to rushing into decisions and actions. So my Pearl is purposeful. Pausing, taking time to reflect. What do I mean by purposeful? Well, the first is presumed positive intent. The second is that I acknowledge that you're only getting one person's perspective, one person's reality and experience. But after an investigation, you normally find out that their reality is more complex and often very different to the one that was presented to you. The other purpose is to avoid being impulsive. We all have that desire to fix it, to look decisive, to look affirmative, to look efficient. But honestly, I would urge you and urge myself to continue to remember the art of the calls emails. The efficiency of email is not your friend.

Do not be surprised that after all of your efforts to communicate a policy or initiative on everything, looking really, really good to then you get home in the evening to find out that somebody has a need, that goes completely against your policy and when you read that email, you're going to be highly charged and frustrated. Remember the art of the pause purposefully calm down. Do not reply immediately no matter how satisfying that passive aggressive reply is.

Trust me, you will regret it in the long run. If you lose much, more than the satisfaction, remember the art of the pause. Crisis for some people are every single day, that might not be big to you, but the person who's finally come to your office is going to be an emotional skit. They're going to be exasperated, ready for them. They are in crisis and they want you to solve their problems. Do not rush to fix it. Remember the art of the pause. Often they want you to make a drastic exception to the policy. It'll seem right at the time. They'll want me to sanction a student way above the normal policies, they want you to do something tofor their grade. They're going to be extremely persuasive. You're going to want to fix it, but through a member of the art of the pause, because that policy was written in the cold light of day, it was thought through and your in an emotional state, however, purposely reflect close again because maybe the policy hadn't thought of this situation. Maybe an exception does have to be considered. It just doesn't have to be made right now. Remember the art of the pause. When a member of staff comes back from the PTC full of energy and



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new ideas of how to transform your school. Remember the art of the pause.

Is the school ready, are you ready? But how long should the pause be, emails? Honestly, I recommend 24 hours to wait on it. The next day is going to be much better. Crisis and relationships. Two to three days. Here's a secret. Most of my crisis are solved by me doing nothing. I tell them I'll look into it. I tell them I'll have a chat with them and then I check in, are things better? Yeah. Thank you.

Well, what about the person who's come back from the PTC? They can be trickier. You got to react right away. Tell them to set up a learning, set up a research group, harness their energy. Tell them to come back to an a couple of weeks to touch base to see where they are. Remember the art of the pause, especially when you're signing up with you guys."