

A Few Good Minutes...

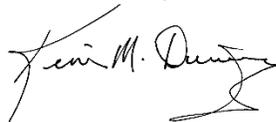
The most important component of a student's education is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. Teacher quality is more important than the availability of technology, class size, amount of homework, gender mix or the host of factors that can impact a student's school experience. I believe a principal's most important job is to support quality teaching in the classroom. That is why I am excited to introduce a new initiative at work at BCS, developed by our Director of Curriculum and Innovation, Amy Fox, and our academic coaches, Amanda Albright and Jessica Ahnert.

Bellevue Christian is offering a new professional development opportunity to teachers through formal coaching cycles. This program offers individualized professional growth toward shared organizational goals, such as the use of diverse and engaging instructional strategies, increased student ownership of learning, meaningful use of technology in the classroom, and growth in the core practices of *Teaching for Transformation*.

In a coaching cycle, a teacher and an instructional coach identify a goal based on student and teacher needs in the classroom. Then the teacher and coach collaborate to research and implement specific classroom strategies and practices to work toward that goal. A coaching cycle runs for about six weeks and is structured around regular classroom visits and opportunities for the coach to share in and observe the classroom story. After each classroom visit, the teacher and coach reflect on how the new strategies impact student learning in order to identify the next steps to further student growth toward the goal.

Coaching cycles support the development of our academic program and are an investment in the talent and expertise of our teachers. We are eager to see the positive impact of this individualized and goal-driven approach on our students' learning experiences and academic growth.

In His Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dunning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin M. Dunning

Head of School