

# Affirm Refine Aspire

HS4 Learning Services Newsletter - January 2022

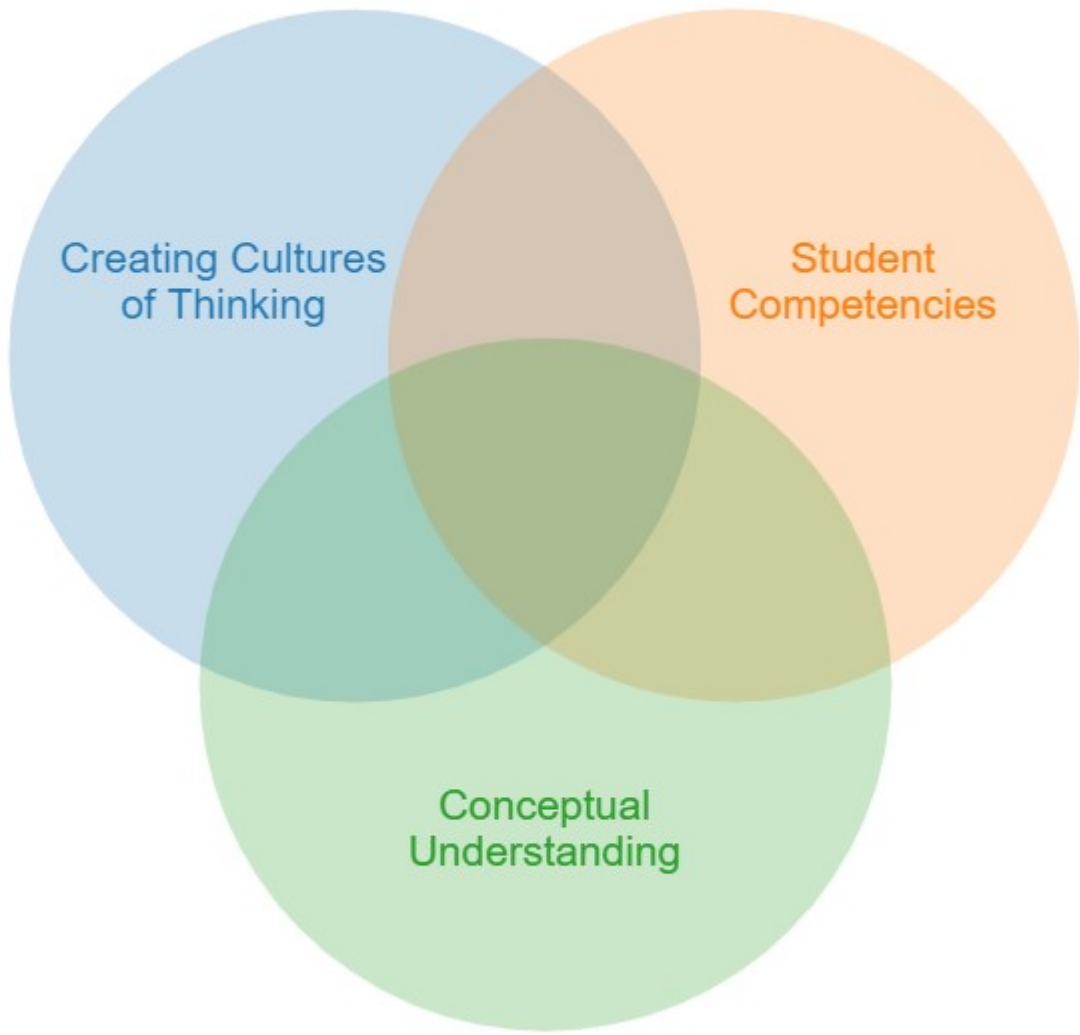
## Stay the Course

Over the past several years as a Division, Holy Spirit has been focusing our learning and growth as educators primarily in these three areas: Creating Cultures of Thinking and the work of Ron Ritchhart, exploring the Student Competencies and their importance in the lives of our students as we prepare them for life after high school, as well as focusing on Teaching for Conceptual Understanding in order to support learning that transfers to new, real-world problems outside of the classroom.

As we prepare for new curriculum, as well as striving to prepare our students for unlimited possibilities beyond graduation, we continue to target the 'sweet spot' where each of these ideas and understandings intersect in order to support the growth and development of all of our students. What are those commonalities?

- The 'Residuals of Education,' as coined by Ritchhart, are those things that we want to 'stick' with our students long after they graduate (the Student Competencies!)
- Student engagement and ownership for learning
- Growth Mindset
- Authentic learning and learning that transfers

As educators we continue to have many challenges ahead of us, but all of the above help to hit that 'sweet' spot. We can use ALL of these understandings and approaches to tackle ANY content and help prepare our students to be ready for their future, whatever that may look like.



Creating Cultures  
of Thinking

Student  
Competencies

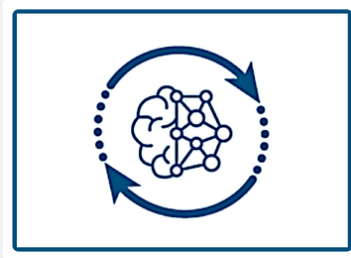
Conceptual  
Understanding



## What are Cultures of Thinking?

"**Cultures of thinking** are places where thinking is valued, visible, and actively promoted."

- 10 Principles of Cultures of Thinking : [Cultures of Thinking in Action](#)
- Classroom Strategies: [Project Zero Thinking Routines Tool Box](#)



## What is Concept-Based Learning?

Concept-based learning uses organizing ideas to help students make connections between facts, and to transfer their understanding to new contexts.

- [What is Conceptual Understanding?](#) - Julie Stern
- [Learning Transfer: What is it and why does it matter?](#)
- [Education to Save the World](#)



## What are Competencies?

"**Competencies** are combinations of attitudes, **skills**, and knowledge that students develop and apply for successful **learning**, living, and working" (Alberta Education).

- Current Curriculum: [Competencies/Descriptions & Indicators](#)
- Draft Curriculum: [New LearnAlberta/Competency Progressions](#)



## Strategies for Thinking Teachers and Students

### [Unit Storyboards/learning that transfers](#)

- Sample unit plans based on conceptual understanding and learning transfer for all grades and subjects

Instructional routines to make thinking visible

- [K20 Strategies Website](#)



## Professional Learning Resources Spotlight

Check out the ARPDC Learn and Go Library:

<https://learnandgo.ca/>

Find professional resources and learning opportunities [here](#).

### **Junior High Teachers**

'Sometimes Reading is Hard'  
- A virtual conversation with Dr. Robin Bright  
Friday, January 28, 2022  
(8:30am-10:00am)

Please see your school administrator for further details.



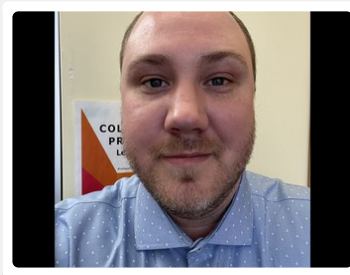
## Free Classroom Resources

### Literacy

- Decodable books for young readers: <https://portal.flyleafpublishing.com/>
- Ideas for notebook work from Penny Kittle: [Notebook Work](#)

### Numeracy

- Instructional routines and warm-ups: [20 Days of Number Sense and Rich Math Talk K-12](#)
- [Supporting English Language Learners](#)



## Meet Sean!

Sean Gregoire is new to the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division. He is excited to be joining the Learning Services team as the new Administrative Assistant and providing support for teachers and students.



# Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

## Learning Services

[Carmen Larsen](#) - Director of Learning

[Dianne Brodie](#) - Learning Coach

[Louise Knodel](#) - Learning Coach

[Sean Gregoire](#) - Administrative Assistant

[Learning Services Help](#)

**Working Together to Improve Student Learning**

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