



Director of Sports Ministries



SportsLeader at Seton LaSalle High School

Lauren Martin, Principal

Kathy Wray, Director of Sports Ministries



Introduction to Sports Leader at SLS

Keys to a successful working relationship for a significant undertaking:

- Familiarity with the community
- A joint belief in the probability of success
- A unilateral approach via regular communication - “being on the same page”
 - Administration (board, president, principal)
 - Athletic Department
 - Campus Ministry





SETON LASALLE

The South Hills Catholic High School

A large, dark bird is shown in flight, its wings spread wide, positioned above the word 'SPORTSLEADER'.

SPORTSLEADER

Virtue equals strength.



Why Sports Leader?

- We needed a well-designed program
- This program met the strengths and needs of our Athletic Department
- We liked the idea of the Director of Sports Ministries
- We already had a qualified DSM on staff...Kathy Wray





Why a Sports Minister?

- A liaison between school Administration and Coaches
- A support to coaches
- A resource for student-athletes and parents
- A dedicated person





Why Kathy Wray?

She

- Is in the school, knows the students, is present
- Has a background in ministry
- Is attentive to others' stories
- Displays sensitivity
- Uses a non-defensive approach
- Provides support to the school community
- Demonstrates a good sense of personal dynamic (people reader)
- Applies teaching techniques to working with coaches





Seton LaSalle Strategy: “Easy Does It”

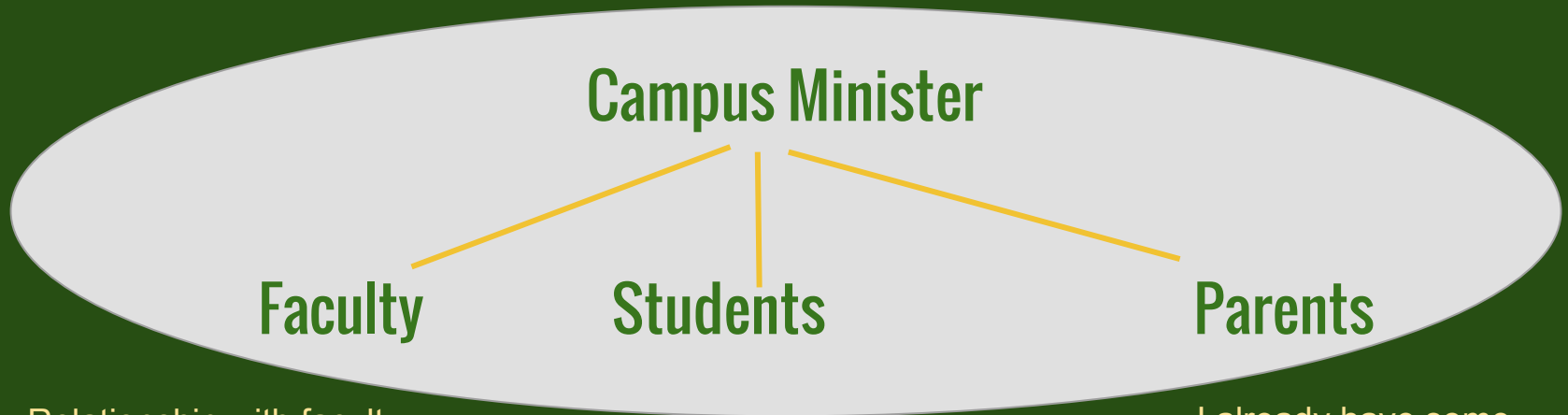
We developed a strategy:

- We started **small**
- We presented *Sports Leader* as “optional with a press”
- A **generous budget** was made available
- An **attitude of flexibility** from all sides eased the process
- “**Seamless garment**” across the school landscape (public relations, advancement, etc.)





Sports Minister as Teacher and Campus Minister



Relationship with faculty facilitates the occasional schedule adjustments

Provides a facility with students, by my mere presence, they see a connection with faith and action (sports)

I already have some visibility to parents via my campus ministry work



Sports Minister as Teacher and Campus Minister

Qualities that have helped:

1. Flexibility -

“The Sabbath was made for the man: man was not made for the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:27

ask-attend-adapt

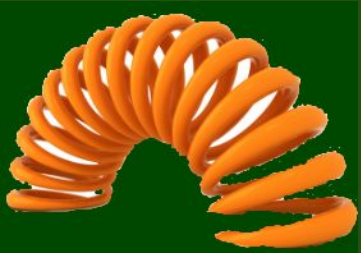
Ask coach how best to proceed

Attend to the person first, her position second.

Adapt - teams often have unique circumstances (usually problematic!) -

meet the situation and assess...

(but still trust the Sports Leader process!)





Sports Minister as Teacher and Campus Minister

Qualities that have helped:

2. Positivity -

“Interpret everything in the most favorable sense.”

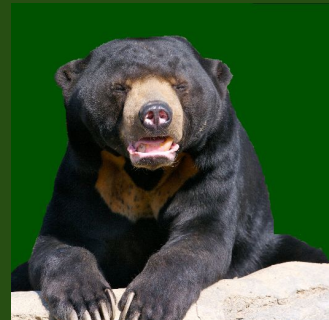
If/when you are met with a closed door or with excuses why not to participate, look for any window that is cracked open and go in that way.

3. Resilience -

“You catch more bears with honey”

We did not mandate SL the first year.

It is important to NOT respond defensively. It's not personal.





Sports Minister as Teacher and Campus Minister

Qualities that have helped:

4. Compassion -

“Everything has the potential of calling forth in us a more loving response to our life with God.” (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

Remember...it's **MINISTRY** all the way around.

- Learn the family story; learning about the family teaches you about the athlete.
- Get to know your coaches;

Offering care and bringing Christ into the picture starts with the relationship with the coach. Assume he/she is a person of faith.





Sports Minister as Teacher and Campus Minister

Qualities that have helped:

5. Integrity and empathy -

“Practice what you preach”

mom

The *Sports Leader* program is a lot to ask of coaches.

Have a **felt sense/experiential knowledge** of what you ask of them.

6. Gratitude -

“If the only prayer we utter is thanks, that would be enough.”

Abraham Joshua Heschel

Be sure to take your OWN ministry to prayer, and begin with gratitude.



What Have We Learned so Far?

1. Sit back and observe.

Remember, we're still learning. This is only our first year, so the big picture matters.

2. Sports Leader is a 3 year process!

3. We will decide whether or not we will mandate after year three.

Suggestion: Learn about the whole process WHEN you buy in to SL.

4. Parent feedback is mainly about the ceremonies but remember it is more than that.

5. There is no failure: Interpret everything in the most favorable sense to gage success: Every piece of the program that was incorporated is more than what was done before. Everything is a step forward.



Bringing this Full Circle



Questions?