

WHAT'S THE SAME?

One thing will never change, and that is kids still learn best from teachers who care about them as individuals, in spite of their unpredictable behavior, their funny smells, and whether or not they can pay for their lunch today.

Though the principal's role has seen many social and educational changes in the past 40 years, one thing hasn't changed and isn't likely to in the future — the uniquely American oversight of public education. The annual migration of 687 decision-makers (100 Senators, 435 Congresspersons, 147 state legislators and 5 local board members) to their nesting places in D.C., Olympia, and back home, produces new rules for principals to implement, often while struggling to find resources. The constant changes and mandates makes leading sustained improvement in schools akin to sailing in an unpredictable windstorm — our destination remains the same, but we keep making massive changes just to try and keep the winds from pushing us off course.

My conclusion from all this reflection is the principalship is occasionally a goofy, but always glorious place to spend one's adult life. I will leave the profession a much better man than when I entered it solely because of those I encountered along the way. To all of you who've helped chart my course, I say thank you. Keep on sailing. ■



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Humor me!

Created by **David Ford**, Retired Washington State Principal

