I. Probe some compelling 21st century realities impacting schools.

II. Give good reasons for collaborating on school-level, standards-based, learning-focused curriculum development.

III. Explain the steps of Backward Design Thinking and apply it to lesson design.
2. Digital Learners

Digital Natives 
à la Mark Prensky

Grew up with and mostly prefer ...
Being engaged
Doing and gameplay
Random access and exploring options
Multitasking
Going online
Personalized to them
Digital Immigrants
á la Mark Prensky

Grew up with and often prefer ...
Delivering and receiving content
Presenting and telling
Linear stories
One thing at a time
Face to face
One size fits all

Students today...

Catholic schools prepare students to do the things that need doing...

...shape the “things that need doing” by the way they are prepared.

What “needs doing” is changing.
3. More R-directed thinking

L
sequential
literal
functional
textual
analytic

R
simultaneous
metaphorical
aesthetic
contextual
synthetic

"The era of ‘left brain’ dominance—and the Information Age it engendered—is giving way to a new world in which ‘right brain’ qualities—inventiveness, empathy, meaning—will govern."

—Dan Pink, A Whole New Mind

"Left-brain style thinking used to be the driver, and right-brain style thinking the passenger. Now R-Directed Thinking is suddenly grabbing the wheel, stepping on the gas, and determining where we’re going and how we’re going to get there. L-Directed aptitudes—the kind measured by the SAT and employed by CPAs—are still necessary. But they’re no longer sufficient."

—Dan Pink, A Whole New Mind
3. Success for ALL

“The new mission for schools is to achieve 90-95 per cent success. This is what it will take for societies to thrive in the complex world of the 21st century. And the goal is not just about literacy and numeracy scores.”

Michael Fullan, Breakthrough (2006)

Creativity is as important as literacy.

Education for this century needs to start reflecting this.

Sir Ken Robinson

It is about learning to learn, about becoming independent thinkers and learners. It is about problem solving, teamwork, knowledge of the world, adaptability, and comfort in a global system of technologies, conflict and complexity. It is about the joy of learning and the pleasure and productivity of using one’s learning in all facets of life pursuits.”

Fullan, 2006
And Catholic schools would add, it’s about integrating faith and culture, and allowing Jesus to become the center of our lives.

Translation

Teach and assess the most important learning for every student in every classroom every day.

Where we’re headed...

I. Probe some compelling 21st century realities impacting schools.

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Curriculum is the agreed-upon, communicated set of decisions about what students will learn and how they will learn it, actually used by teachers to increase learning.

Articulate these decisions -- 21st century realities --- current needs --- ALL students

Teachers
Board
Parents
Funders

WHY

Not
Something that energizes me about collaborating on a new standards-based curriculum for my Fort Worth Catholic school is...

A worry I have about this curriculum process is...