

End of year wrap-up

Life seldom turns out as one expects, but this school year took a serious detour. Covid-19 completely altered our formal studies and way of life. There is no need to dwell on this sad fact and I would rather focus on how we started the year: by setting goals. I hope there were only a few people that completely forgot or gave up on their goal before the end of 2019. There were times that I was troubled by the defeatist attitude of some students because thinking you can't do something, means you won't put forth your best effort and ultimately fail. Although failure is a part of life, we need to learn from it and not repeat a mistake.

Did you fail or succeed in achieving your goal, and be honest?

The two goals I set had to do with professional growth. One was to write and publish an ore deposits paper. After a critical review (by a colleague I've had differences with in the past) and substantial revisions, the paper was published earlier this year in Ore Geology Reviews. My second goal was to improve with the Charlotte Mason teaching technique. I know there is still room for improvement in this area and it will be one of my goals for next year. Although I am no 'Expert' with the Charlotte Mason method of learning, a positive is that I am no longer a 'Novice.' We don't achieve goals 100% of the time and that's fine, if we you put forth an honest effort and are willing to continue working towards a goal.

Everyone knows that I do not give A+ grades on tests and the reason is that perfection is not achievable in this life. We know from reading Bible passages during lunch on Monday that sin has produced flaws in this world, and us. Yet we have incredible potential and should work towards achieving it to the best of our ability. Therefore, set a goal for this summer to improve some part of your person. Then honestly pursue it and let God judge whether you succeeded.

Biology class: Since the Coronavirus deprived us of doing an actual dissection, Ms. Tammy has provided online resources to do virtual dissections (web address: <https://www.navs.org/additional-information/bioleap-dissection-alternatives/free-online-dissection-resources/>). Be forewarned: the photographs are very detailed, so there are a few people that might not want to eat a meal before doing virtual dissections. The online sites that I found to be the best include: Pigeon dissection PowerPoint, Anatomy Corner Cat Dissection, Earthworm Dissection PowerPoint, Fetal Pig Whitman College (there will be a menu on the right to select different systems of the pig), Turtle Dissection PowerPoint. If the above list doesn't satisfy your curiosity about the internal anatomy of living things, the following virtual dissections are interesting: Biology corner – Virtual Squid dissection; Anatomy Corner, Sheep Brain/Heart Dissection; and Rat Dissection PowerPoint. Knock yourselves out.

Life Science class: Please continue reading the 'Sand County Almanac,' as there are chapters that we did not get to read together and narrate. Also, keep a dictionary on hand to look up words that you don't understand (remember how Leopold has a strong vocabulary). As you read, be searching for the idea he is trying to express and theme of the passage. Finally, keep an eye open for birds when you are outside or simply looking through the window. Remember how birds change color during the year and some species are not year-round residents. When eggs hatch and babies fledge, do you think some parents may move on to greener pastures?

American History class: Please continue reading 'A Delicious Country.' Scot had only made it to the Lake Moultrie dam and not gotten into Tyler's neck of the woods. Scot visits a number of places that you will definitely be familiar with, even a transplanted Yankee like me has been to a few of these.

English History class: Please continue reading the 'Brendan Voyage' and find out what the emergency is in the next chapter. Remember, Tim is going to need to replace Edan (the Gannet) and the ox-hide boat has changed since they set out from Ireland. Regarding English History, we only got to spend a little time with the War of the Roses. This maybe something you would like to look up on the internet during the summer and learn more about the Houses of York & Lancaster and details concerning the Battle of Bosworth Field.