

Finishing is better than starting! Patience is better than pride! Ecclesiastes 7:8 (TLB)

The last week of the school year... you can almost hear the excitement as the lines of cars drive onto your campus for the final drop offs, as yearbooks arrive and friends excitedly share memories. The final weeks of school bring extra trips, parties, and special events that help to celebrate the accomplishments of the year. The students are beside themselves with excitement for the future as well as a little nervous about what is to come.

As a teacher, there are a myriad of emotions that this time of the year brings: relief that the hours of planning, grading and teaching are over... for a while, excitement for all that the summer times brings, and sadness that the students you have grown to love and have become part of your family will be moving on to a new chapter in their educational journey.

I recently came across a quote from Gretchen Rubin, "The days are long but the years are short." I never really realized how true this is. While some days seem to drag on, especially those that are the most challenging, this school year especially seemed to fly by! It seems like we were just planning school calendars, curriculum maps and event schedules and now here we are again, ending one year and looking to begin another. As we look forward to the challenges that the next school year brings, it is so important to remember Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Even though we may not know all the next year holds for our schools, children and families, we do know God is with us, loves us and will never leave us. He is with us through every beginning and every ending.

*May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your **plans** succeed. Psalm 20:4 (NIV)*

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