

After AP, Re-Imagining High School

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When AP Is Efficient

- Courses based on coverage
- Short blocks of time
- Teacher-centered classrooms
- Premium on sorting students

The New Breeze Blowing

- Longer class periods
- More student-centered learning
- More student choices
- Projects instead of exams
- More interdisciplinary learning
- More off-campus learning

The New Breeze Blowing (2)

- Shorter terms
- Fewer simultaneous classes

“My friends at other schools have a ton of work but it doesn’t seem that meaningful. At Friends School, the focus is on each student getting a real education. If you choose to work for your own education, you get so much out of it.”

Longer Class Periods (USSF)

- 90 and 130 minute classes
- Intensive focus on professional development
- Teacher collaboration built in

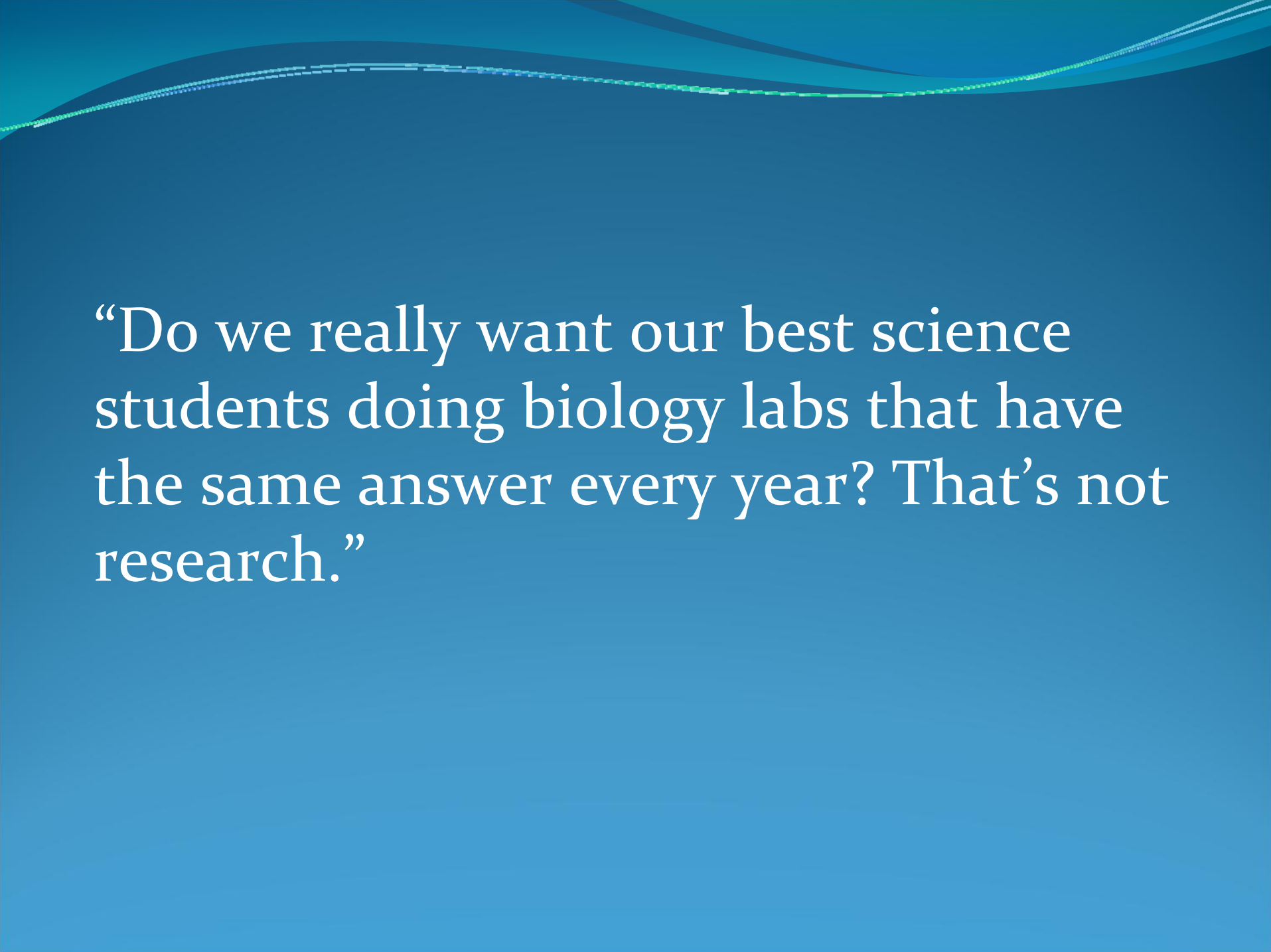
Student Centered Learning

- Carolina Friends Student Teaching
- Sustainability at White Mountain
- Fieldston's annual book day
- Project Week at Putney
- Senior Seminar at Carolina Friends
- Month-Long Labs at Sandia Prep

“My friends at other schools tend to complain about their classes. It’s not about the learning for them. It’s about getting into college. Students at Fieldston sign up for classes because they love the subject.”

More Student Choices

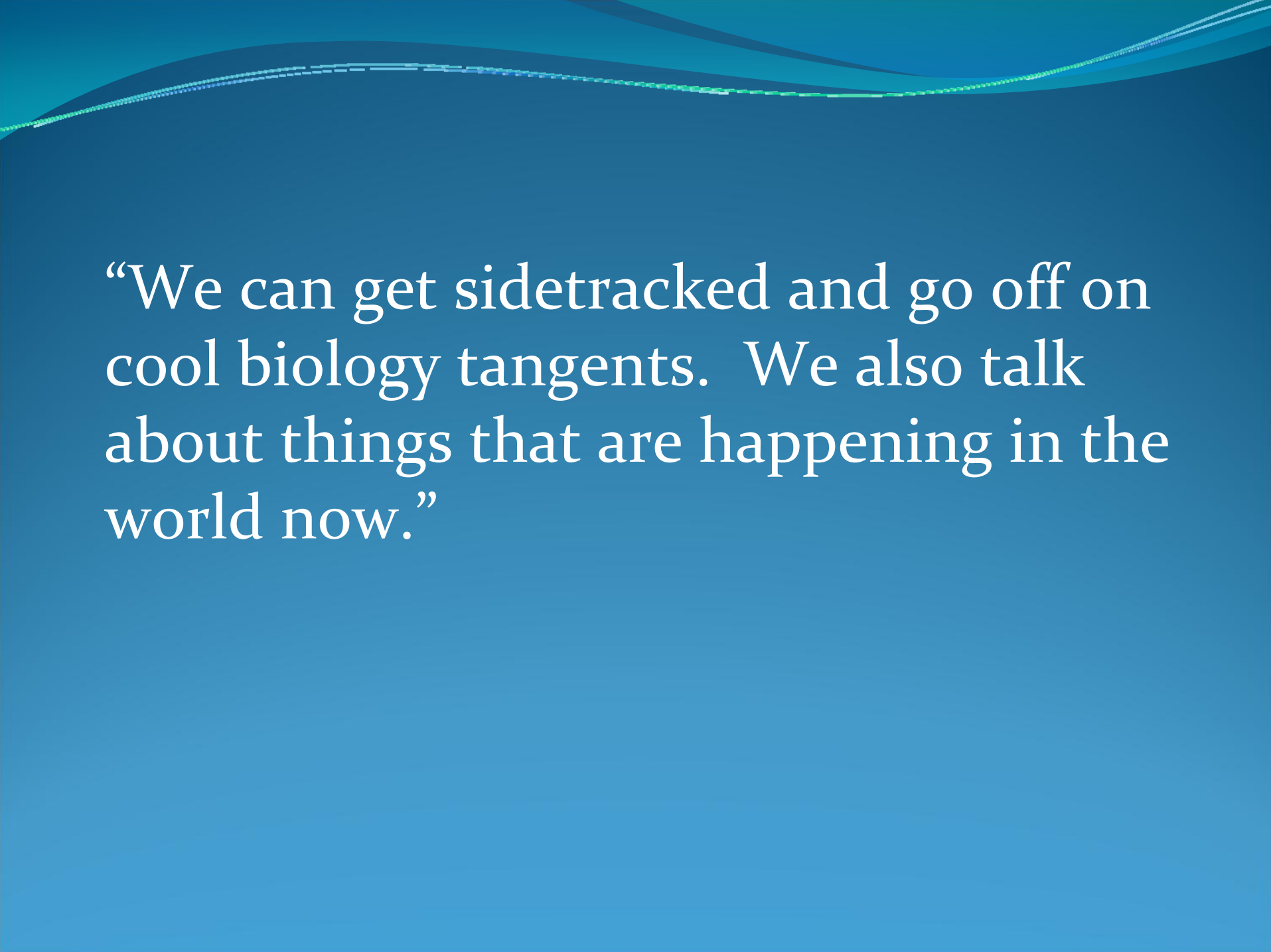
- Environmental and Organic Chemistry at Crossroads
- Research Ecology and Evolutionary History at Westtown
- Linear Algebra at Westtown

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“Do we really want our best science students doing biology labs that have the same answer every year? That’s not research.”

More Student Choices (2)

- Imagining Gender in Film (Calhoun)
- From Hiroshima to 9/11 (Westtown)
- Infinity (Urban School)
- The Roots of Islamic Extremism (Bvr)
- Immigrant Narratives: NYC (Field.)

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“We can get sidetracked and go off on cool biology tangents. We also talk about things that are happening in the world now.”

More Student Choices (3)

- Advanced Francophone Lit (Putney)
- Hue and You (Calhoun)
- History of Western Philosophy (St. Andrews-Sewanee)
- We Real Cool: Songs of Global and Multicultural Identity (Crossroads)

“I’ve constantly got all the things I’ve learned on projects in the back of my head. If I’m memorizing for a test, I forget it a week later.”

More Off-Campus Learning

- Service Learning at the Urban School
- Oral History at Crossroads
- Civil Rights Movement at C. Friends
- Senior Experience at Sandia Prep

Shorter Terms, Fewer Classes

- Trend to Trimesters
- Mods at Cambridge School of Weston
- Winter Term at Carolina Friends
- Calhoun to implement mods

“One of the tragedies of the normal system is that sixth and seventh grade teachers make decisions that will shape their students’ entire academic careers. From what we know about adolescent development, that’s crazy.”

Sponteneity

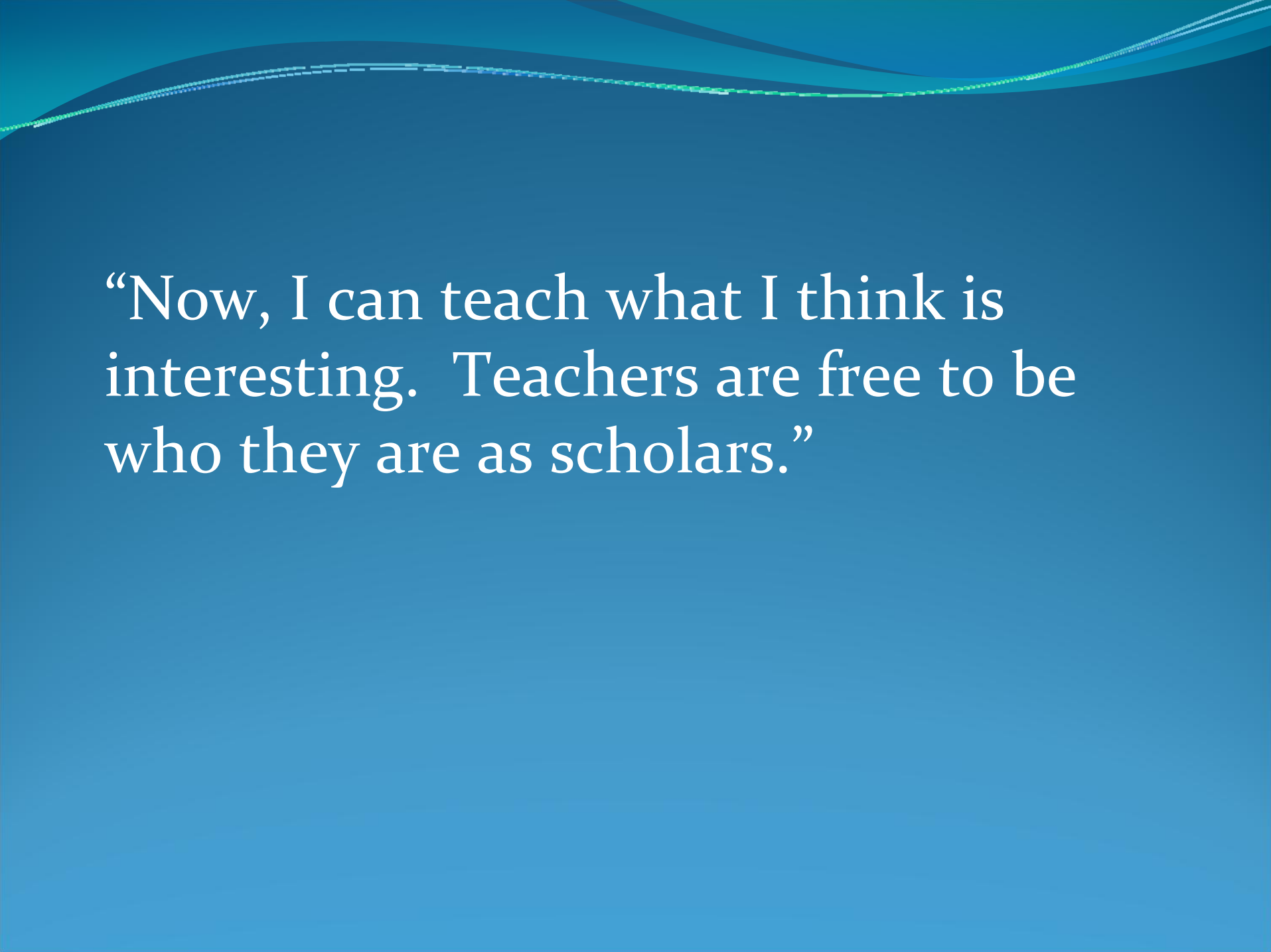
- Global economic collapse at Beaver and St. Andrews-Sewanee

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“It’s a course about our world right now. We’re able to have a dialogue about the events we’re living in.”

Recipe For Stress, Depression

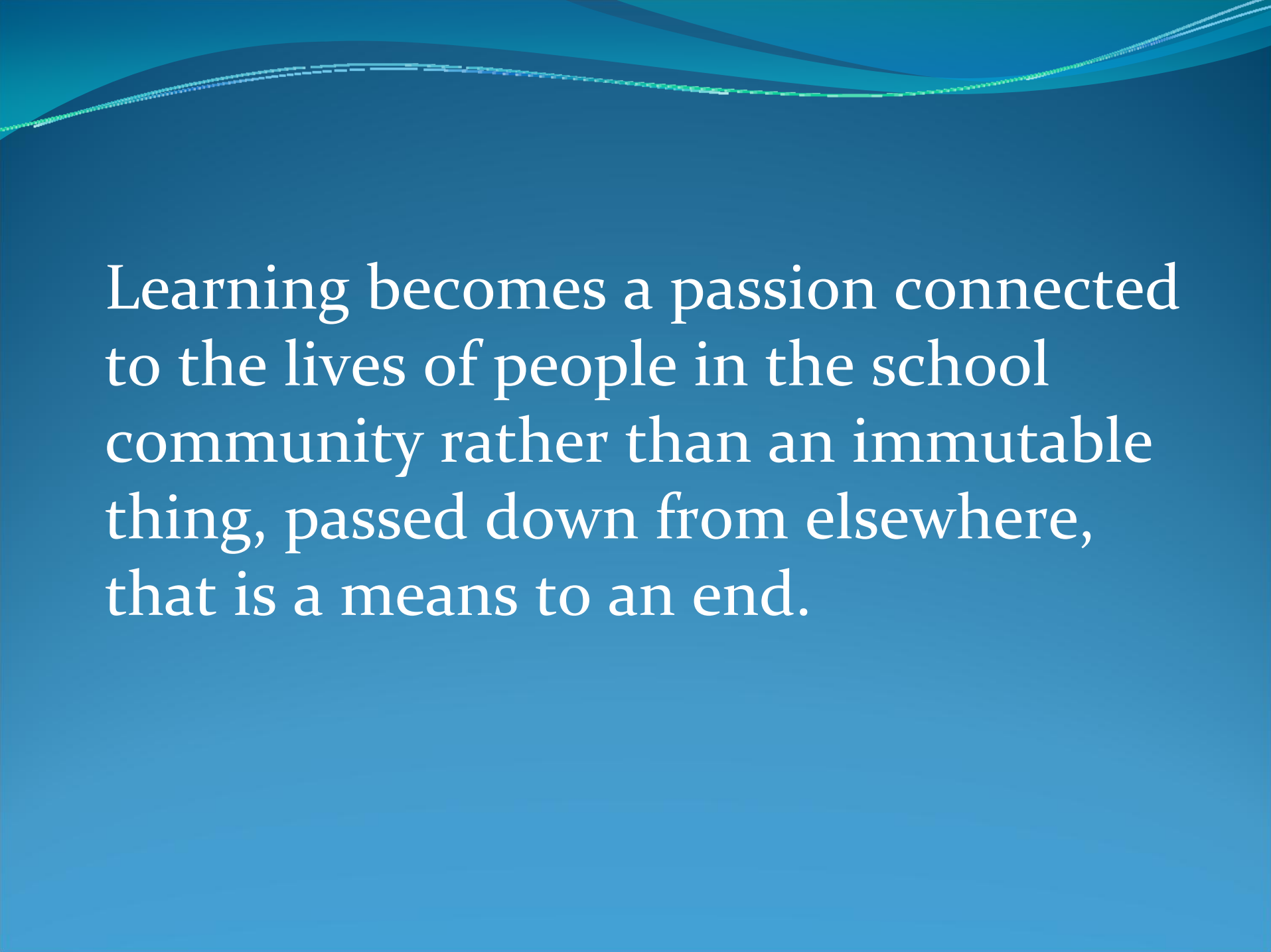
- Huge demands combined with little control
- Turf wars, fights over time

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“Now, I can teach what I think is interesting. Teachers are free to be who they are as scholars.”

Teachers Share Learning

- More Passion
- End to the “one narrative” illusion

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Learning becomes a passion connected to the lives of people in the school community rather than an immutable thing, passed down from elsewhere, that is a means to an end.