

# Here's what I think ...

*By Ty Ankrom*

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The year's end is not far away and after several weeks of work parties and gathering with friends and family, the new year often starts with the resolve to do something better in 2015.

This year, consider making some unresolutions that may let you enjoy the season more.

If your resolutions are those things you will do in 2015, let your unresolutions be those things you *won't* do over the next two weeks.

Are you hosting a holiday dinner this year? Don't expect the meal – or your house or your children or your spouse – to be perfect. Similarly, don't worry about finding the perfect gift – or expecting a certain gift.

Spend the time together enjoying the company and appreciating the thought that went into the side dish Aunt Lisa always brings or a gift that wasn't quite what you had in mind. Don't fret about something that no one else is likely to notice.

As educators, don't get so wrapped up in the volume and intensity of work that you forget that the focus and reason for our employment is the student. Look for ways to enhance opportunities for students to increase their achievement.

In that vein, don't work so hard or long. Yes, every teacher takes work home, but don't forget to make time for yourself.

If you've been in the field for a long time, don't think your way is the only way that something can be done. Don't focus on what can't be done. Look for how to make things happen.

If you're new to the field, don't just accept things as they are; look for ways to improve. Don't let your fresh enthusiasm be tempered.

For all educators, remember to connect and network with your colleagues. Don't try to do everything on your own.

And don't take yourself too seriously. Develop the ability to laugh at yourself.

Above all, don't forget to enjoy the season.

*Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.*

