



PRESENTS...

LEAD WITH JOY!

NJASCD 2025 IGNITE PRESENTATION!

Josephine Hunt

Teacher Leader

**Closter Public
Schools**



**Lessons
from the
Road**

Leading with Joy

Lessons from the Road

By Josephine Hunt, MAEL, MAED

JosephineVolaricHunt@gmail.com | 201.446.3259

2 hr 23 min (144.5 mi)

Park Ridge, NJ →



2 hr 23 min (144.5 mi)

→ Atlantic City, NJ

It's as easy as riding a bike



Where joy begins



Huffy Days



Cruisin'



Strong Body



Strong Mind

Returning to the Ride...

Taking it Outdoors!



Road Cycling...

*It's as easy as riding a
bike*



Leading with Joy...

It's as easy as riding a bike

AAAAHHHHHH!!!



A-HA!

- Potholes
- Debris
- Gravel
- Uneven pavement



Scan ahead and adjust not for perfection, but for agility.

The road isn't always smooth, but balance is built on uneven ground.

- Policies shift
- Crisis hit
- Plans change

Aspiring Administrator
Educational Leader | Speaker
MAEL & MAED

Josephine HUNT
Parent Professional Learning Consultant
201.446.3259 | JosephineVolaricHunt@gmail.com
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JosephineVolaricHunt@Gmail.com



- Cars speeding by
- Drivers not paying attention
- Horns
- Chaos



Focus is your best protection.

Focus is on the students.

Ride alert and focused on your

- *lane*
- *purpose*
- *your why*

the students

- Mandates
- Emails
- Opinions
- Testing pressures

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- Wind
- Rain
- Heat
- Cold
- Nature doesn't factor in your plans



True resilience is learning to ride through all conditions, not just the sunny ones.

Joy and gratitude must be harvested through any kind of weather and condition.

- Budget cuts
- Changing priorities
- Parent complaints
- External pressures

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- Flat tires
- Slipped chain
- Broken gears



The skill isn't avoiding problems; it's knowing how to pull over, fix the issue, and get back on the road.

*Something will break.
Fix it.
Ride on!*

- Teams
- Systems
- Strategies
- Breakdowns happen
- Something always needs adjusting

- Total energy crash
- No fuel left
- Muscles screaming
- Mind fog



When the joy fades, refuel with purpose.

***Refueling through connection,
gratitude, and rest before the joy
completely drains.***

Burnout

- Lonely
- Mentally challenging



Leading with others keeps morale and motivation alive.

Solo miles build mental muscle, but community keeps you moving.

- Isolating
- Emotionally draining

- Taking a hard corner too fast
 - Showing off speed
- ❖ Falling as a result of overconfidence: ego



Humility keeps you upright.

Decisions without mindfulness lead to crashes.

- Leading too fast without listening
- Assuming invincibility
- Pushing others past their pace

❖ Derailing the entire team as a result of overconfidence: ego

- Not trusting your balance
- Braking too much
- Second-guessing yourself

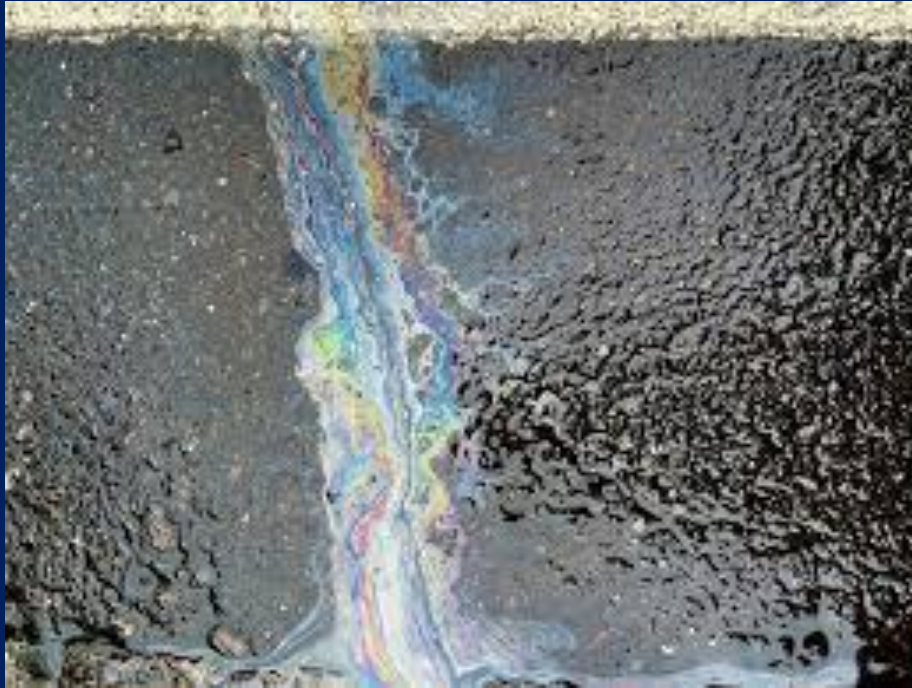


Courageous leaders aren't fearless. They act despite fear.

Joy in leadership emerges when we trust the ride.

- Fear keeps leaders from:
 - taking risks
 - innovating
 - letting go of control

- Road oil
- Black ice
- Loose sand
- Hazards you don't see until you're on them



It's what you can't see that can make you slip.

Leaders must cultivate awareness and empathy to avoid sliding into crisis.

- Unseen cultural dynamics
- Silent burnout
- Student struggles beneath the surface

Sometimes you do fall...

- scraped skin
- cracked helmet
- bruised pride



Resilient leaders are not defined by the fall.

Resilient leaders are known for how they get up, assess, and keep riding.

Falling isn't failure.

Falling is feedback.

Mistakes and setbacks are inevitable.

The joy is in the journey, not the destination.



Joy isn't what we reach for.

Joy is what we ride with.

Shift when you need to.
Ride with others.

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