**David Ness- Principal of Lutheran High School**

**Key Points From Talk:**

* "If you're not a guide on the side you're a sage on the stage": Teachers don’t have to know everything and have to stay up late to prepare, but instead can have students talk about the topic that they’re interested in. For example, when he was a teacher, he wanted to make sure that he knew more than the students and spent a lot of time researching and preparing. Another teacher told him that by doing that he would get worn out a lot sooner. Instead of knowing more, have a student talk about their interest that pertains to the topic they’re learning about.
* More choice for research- give components to the project (rubric), but not the the topic. Larger classes are starting to have this “choice” taken away because they want order. They believe that if the students choose their own topic, there will be more chaos and the project will be harder to complete.
* Mr. Ness’ mom went to a one room school house with grades 1-8.
  + Learning was individualized and personalized
    - You can go through 2 grades in 1 year- own pace
  + More motivation to learn
    - Being top of the class was “cool” and she wanted to learn what the other grades were learning.
* There’s a lot of traits necessary for personal learning: commitment, perseverance, and motivation. Also, a good topic to research and learn about helps.

**Reflection:**

Listening to this talk helped me understand more about Lights Academy and personalized learning. I took away a lot of benefits from personalized learning. I also, learned about what it takes to have a more individualized and personal education. Personal learning applies more to life than the regular curriculum of schools. In life, you are given more opportunities to research things that you are interested in rather than given a specific topic (unlike basic school classes that we have today). We are able to explore our interests and passions to help us later in life. This helps us find career interests and create goals for the future. In regular classes, you are graded on the things you are taught, even if you didn't understand them. It is much easier to be graded on the things you already know and are interested in. This talk gave me more motivation to strive in Lights Academy.