



Renuntio

No nobler training exists but that which cherishes the good, the beautiful, and the true, thus producing disciples of knowledge and lovers of wisdom.

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An Aspiring Classical Teacher

When I first began to teach, I felt I needed to be a starched, in control, knowledgeable-in-all-things sort of teacher. This turned out to be a very difficult role. I wanted to act like I knew exactly how to perform in my classroom while I taught and managed the students around me. However, inside, I was very afraid that I would reveal some unsatisfactory aspect of myself. After all, I was supposed to be a classical teacher, and, in my opinion, this required me to be perfectly enlightened as I assumed teachers of ancient times had been. This belief prevented me from being myself. I can be very energetic, expressive, and creative, but I can be forgetful. So, I made an effort to spend time investigating if I belonged in this teaching environment. Happily, through much exploration I discovered *Docendo Discimus*, a Latin proverb meaning "By Teaching We learn." This saying gave me hope, because it meant that since I desire to be a great teacher, I must remain a student.

A teacher does the same thing a student does when learning about a new subject. We must obtain information. Next, retain the information, and then be able to retrieve it when needed. A teacher should not feel unworthy during their first few years, because this is a time of encoding the information and trying your best to store it and then to share the basic requirements using well-articulated notes. Classical teachers will refresh themselves from time to time with pre-existing information, discover new information to enhance what is being taught and have a plan to make connections to other subjects or classical concepts. This made me realize

that it is ok to forget some things in the early years of teaching. Because, as time goes by, my constant efforts to recall and explain concepts will encourage my brain to learn. Even now, the struggle has lessened and I have a better understanding, which I know will improve every year. A classical teacher does not have to fear not being able to remember every fact, but just believe that continued learning is the expectation. David Hicks, the author of *Norms and Nobility*, who is dedicated to Classical Education, supports this concept by saying, "The heart of Classical Education is a spirit of inquiry. We as teachers should cultivate the curious wonder that children possess."

What better way to cultivate this curiosity than by using my own unique personality and creativity to actively stimulate and nurture individual inspiration in learners. At first, my thoughts were that the kids need to have fun things to do. This involved me creating inspirational group activities, games, etc. After several disruptions and kids not being able to recall their learning, I realized that this did not contribute to the classical idea of cultivating life-long affections for truth, goodness and beauty, which comes from the love of learning. Christopher Perrin said that a wise teacher will know how to import "play" to the best advantage, not permitting her classroom to become a playground. I had to learn to play differently and then apply it to my students' learning. Through concentrated teaching strategies which requires the development of multidimensional, highly interactive and involved educational approaches my kids can be actively engaged, (Pg. 2)

THE XAVIER PROMISE

Xavier Classical Charter Schools are dedicated to providing a classical, intellectually rigorous, content-rich, liberal arts education, preparing students to excel in every duty and guiding them toward wisdom and virtue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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- 1/3-5— Homework Club
- 1/10-12— Homework Club
- 1/11— Board Meeting 6p.m.
- 1/12— PFA Meeting 3:15p.m.
- 1/17-19— Homework Club
- 1/19— **TACKY TOURIST DRESS UP DAY**
- 1/20— WINTER SHOWCASE (7-12) 6:30p.m.
- 1/26— End of Semester **NO SCHOOL (Kindergarten ONLY)** Early Release (1-12) 1p.m.
- 1/27— **NO SCHOOL** (Teacher In-Service)
- 1/28— Academic Decathlon Ski Club—10:45a.m.
- 1/31-2/2— Homework Club
- 2/1— Re-enrollment and Open Enrollment begins
- 2/4— Ski Club— 1:15p.m.
- 2/7-9— Homework Club
- 2/8— Board Meeting 6p.m.

Aspiring Teacher cont. —

promoting fun as their curiosity is stimulated. In Christopher Perrin's *Eight Principles of Classical Pedagogy*, he says that memory through repetition, songs, chants and jingles should be utilized. Students have the natural tendency to sing and the brain wants the repetition. Experiencing something over and over again cultivates curiosity and wonder, which is beautiful, true and good.

A classical teacher also uses a principle of *Festina lenta* - make haste slowly. She must invest time to form a deep love of what is being taught and avoid just going through the motions. There is no fooling the students because they will ultimately feel this vibe in the classroom. A teacher must spend time having her students view and discuss the concepts being learned. This experience needs to be done over and over again in order for the student to experience the truth, good and beauty in the knowledge they obtain.

My journey was one of uncertainty and fear due to not understanding the process of being a Classical Teacher. I have recently learned scholars understood the importance of being a student and using the knowledge obtained to teach. Investing time is necessary in order to form an appreciation of what is discovered. By reinforcing this information through repetition, curiosity and wonder will be cultivated, which leads to wanting to learn more. I am a Classical Scholar and I can use my own unique, creative personality to stimulate, nurture, and cultivate all that is beautiful, true and good.

With this insight, I hope that I can embody this quote: *"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."* —William Arthur Ward

Julynn Hall— Fifth Grade Teacher



OPEN AND RE-ENROLLMENT FEBRUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

HONESTY—WE NEVER KNOWINGLY INDUCE ANOTHER TO BELIEVE WHAT IS FALSE. WE ARE ALWAYS TRUTHFUL IN WHAT WE SAY AND DO, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OR CONSEQUENCES.

Jan. 3 — *"Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth living, and truth loving."* ~James E. Faust (American religious leader, lawyer, politician, b.1920-2007)

Jan. 10 — *"No legacy is as rich as honesty."* ~William Shakespeare (English poet, playwright, actor, b.1706-1790)

Jan. 17 — *"Honest hearts produce honest actions."* ~Brigham Young (Latter Day Saints leader, b. 1801-1877)

Jan. 24 — *"Honesty shines like a light through the eyes."* ~Alexander Pope (English poet, b. 1688-1744)

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Tap your toes and sing along in this "splashy" adaptation of the celebrated and beloved film. Hilarious situations, snappy dialogue and a hit-parade score of Hollywood standards make *Singin' in the Rain* the perfect entertainment for any fan of the golden age of movie musicals. **January 12th-14th at 7:30pm w UNDERSTUDY SHOW on January 14th at 2:30.**

Advance tickets are on sale now!
Get them at <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=71562> or at the Orpheum Theatre ticket counter Wednesday through Friday from 11am to 3pm! Same day tickets will be sold at the door 90 minutes before each performance.