



# 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.

April, 2017

Volume 5 Issue 8

## Special Education and the Classical Model

Classical education has sought to cultivate the student's mind and character. It was not intended to exclude those with special needs. Socrates questioned students for one purpose, to lead them to truth. We still use the Socratic method as an essential element of classical education, yet students who are in special education often seem to be forgotten when it comes to building their minds and character and are not included using the Socratic method. How can we as educators change this? Easy, we must be willing to teach ALL students.

A student in special education may require tutoring, adapted materials, additional review, altered expectations, and multiple accommodations, however, when doing all of the above mentioned, a teacher is still cultivating a student's mind and character. In order to be successful, a teacher needs to first learn a student's ability level.

In Simply Classical, a Beautiful Education for Any Child, by Cheryl Swope (126-127), she identifies 3 levels of identifying a student's learning levels which will assist the student in becoming successful when using a classical education model. First is a student's Independent Level. This is the level in which the child works easily and comprehends well. Second is the Instructional Level. Material used at the instructional level will push him a little beyond what is easy, without overtaxing his ability. The third is the student's frustration level. This level is where comprehension is minimal to nonexistent, even with good help. This level is never useful for a student, as a child with special needs cannot learn when they are overtaxed.

When teachers take the time to teach to the learning levels of their students, the students will be more willing to participate in Socratic methods of classroom discussion and will be more willing to keep learning.

## 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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- 4/17— **LOTTERY DAY**
- 4/18-20— Homework Club
- 4/21-21— Hooverville (gr. 7-8)
- 4/25-27— Homework Club
- 4/28— **Western Gear Day**
- 4/28— Arbor Day Assembly
- 5/2-4— Homework Club
- 5/2— National Honor Society 6:30 p.m.
- 5/9-11— Homework Club
- 5/9-11— James and the Giant Peach Practice—3:15 (gr. 7/8)
- 5/12-13— Giant Peach Show (gr. 7/8) 7 p.m.
- 5/13— Strawberry Festival 1-4 p.m.
- 5/16-18— Homework Club
- 5/22— Spring Showcase (gr. 5/6) 5:30 p.m.
- 5/23— Spring Showcase (gr. 3/4) 5:30 p.m.
- 5/24— Spring Showcase (gr. 1/2) 5:30 p.m.
- 5/25— Spring Showcase (gr. 7-12) 6:30 p.m.

Special education cont.—

Teachers must find a way to reach all of their students, not just the average and above average students. Students in special education want to learn and are willing to learn as long as the materials are given to them at their instructional level, not necessarily their grade level.

Our main goal as educators should be to cultivate the student's mind and character. We must learn to reach all of our students, including those in special education, with using the classical education model. Ignacio Estrada says, "If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn".

Heidi Sorensen, Special Education Director

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**A Note from Mr. Hicks:** Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped so far with the Lid Mural panels!

There is still plenty to do. If you would like to volunteer to help Mr. Hicks with his Lid Mural please contact him at

[jhicks@xaviercharter.org](mailto:jhicks@xaviercharter.org) to set up a time to meet.

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**First Annual Strawberry Festival  
Saturday, May 13, 2017 1-4 p.m.**

#### VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

**COOPERATION—** We work with others for the good of all involved with a positive attitude. We equitably participate in mutual responsibilities for the completion of shared ends and direct our efforts and attention accordingly.

**Apr. 3 —** *"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent."* ~John Donne (English poet, lawyer and cleric, b. 1572-1631)

**Apr. 10 —** *"No member of a crew is praised for the rugged individuality of his rowing."* ~Ralph Waldo Emerson (American essayist, lecturer, and poet, b.1803-1882)

**Apr. 17 —** *"None of us is as smart as all of us."* ~Ken Blanchard (American author and management expert, b. 1939-)

**Apr. 24 —** *"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."* ~Ethiopian Proverb

#### KUDOS!

Congratulations to five sixth grade students who participated and placed in the

#### CHOBANI COOKOFF

1st PLACE

**Paige Hanby**

2nd PLACE

**Ian Holt**

3rd PLACE

**Sydney Preuit**

4th PLACE

**Megan Conrad**

5th place

**Riley Bohon**