



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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OLIVER DE MILLIE'S 5 DEADLY FALLACIES

Oliver de Mille, author of *A Thomas Jefferson Education* and founder of George Wythe University, has expressed five deadly myths of modern society and education. The February/March *Renuntio* will be devoted to these myths.

Fallacy Number 1—Learning should be fun.

There is nothing wrong with fun, but there is everything wrong with a society whose primary ambition and design is centered around fun. It is America's 1960's legacy—seeking pleasure has become a national pastime. Fun is simply not a legitimate measurement of value. Things should be judged by whether they are good, true, wholesome, important, and right. De Mille states that fun comes to us in two forms—the kind we earn, and the kind that just happens to us.

To tell you the truth, there are few things as fun as learning, but it must be achieved. It comes after much hard work. In an educational setting, learning occurs when students study. Period. Nothing can change that core principle. According to de Mille, without learning (earned fun), a nation will not remain free. No nation focused on unearned fun will "pay the price to fight a revolutionary war

or cross the plains and build a new nation, or sacrifice to free the slaves, or rescue Europe from Hitler, or put a man on the moon." The legacy of earned fun is one we at Xavier wish to perpetuate. Our desire is that earned fun will one day make a national difference.

Fallacy Number 2—Good teaching is entertaining.

In modern education teachers must be entertaining and fun or they just aren't good teachers. In reality, some of the best teachers aren't a bit entertaining, and this thinking assumes that teachers hold primary responsibility for their child's education. The big question becomes—who is responsible for a child's education? No one will dispute the effectiveness and importance of wonderful teaching, but if a child doesn't learn, who shoulders the burden of the result, especially in the life of a student who has attained the fundamentals of words and numbers?

Parents must rightfully carry some of that burden by setting an example of study and hard work that inspires youth to action. Parents who continually educate themselves, excite and facilitate their children to the same. These parents expect hard work both at home and at school.

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THE XAVIER PROMISE

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

JAN/FEB EVENTS

1/16

- 18—READING CLUB
- 1/17—7/8 WINTERSHOWCASE
6:30 PM @ XAVIER
- 1/18—BOARD MEETING
6:00 PM
- 1/19—9-12 WINTER
SHOWCASE 6:30 PM
- 1/23—CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT
NIGHT
- 1/25—EARLY RELEASE (1-12)
NO SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN
PARENT CONFERENCES
(APPOINTMENT ONLY)
- 1/25—7/8 MUSICAL
ALICE IN WONDERLAND
2:00 PM AND 6:00 PM
- 1/26—NO SCHOOL (K-12)
TEACHER IN-SERVICE
- 1/21— BOARD MEETING-6PM
- 1/30-2/1—READING CLUB
- 2/1-2—ALL STATE MUSIC COMPETITION (9-12)
- 2/6-8—READING CLUB
- 2/7—7/8 MUSIC CLINIC
- 2/9—XAVIER WINTER BALL
7/8—6:00-7:30 PM
9-12—8:00-11:00 PM
- 2/13-15—READING CLUB
- 2/19-20—PRESIDENT'S DAY (NO SCHOOL K-12)
TEACHER IN-SERVICE (NO SCHOOL)

5 Fallacies continued...

De Mille states that there appears to be a relationship between students who have been raised to believe their education is the responsibility of another and adults who expect “outside experts to take care of their freedom” for them. We are conditioned through media to short attention spans, shallow educations, and nominal freedoms. Little time spent on study gleans little learning and weakened expectation for future freedom.

Fallacy Number 3—Books, texts, and materials should be simple and understandable.

It’s our job to do whatever it takes to get an education regardless of the quality or interest level of the material we are reading. In fact, the complex, more difficult stuff is often the best, the most fun, and certainly the most likely to produce individual thinkers and a free nation. The classics—Shakespeare, Newton—works worth tackling, in the end are those that leave indelible marks on our lives. What kind of nation would our founders have created had they been trained with nothing more than a steady diet of easy, quickly understood concepts? Free people are thinking people and thinking is hard work which is why so few take part in it—rather choosing to avoid pressure and take the easy path. The only reason to choose easy is that it is easy, but the results are a weaker adult population with ambiguous convictions, a so-so character, and little strength of will. Thucydides spoke plainly when he said, “The ones who come out on top are the ones who have been trained in the hardest school.” This is true of both individuals and nations. Of course, everything that is hard is not necessarily of value, but most things of value are hard. Count on this: If your studies weren’t hard, really hard, chances are you didn’t learn much.

FEBRUARY PILLAR OF THE MONTH

COURAGE — We always do what we know to be right despite fear, hardship and opposition. We resist negative peer pressure, defend our rights and the rights of others, and encourage others to do the same.

Feb. 5 — *“Only one principle will give you courage—that is the principle that no evil lasts forever nor indeed for very long.”*

~Epicurus (Greek philosopher, b.341-270 BC)

Feb. 12 — *“Don’t wish it were easier, wish you were better. Don’t wish for fewer problems, wish for more skills. Don’t wish for less challenges, wish for more wisdom.”* ~Earl Shoaf (American entrepreneur, b. 1916-1965)

Feb. 19 — *“It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.”*

~E.E. Cummings (American poet, painter, essayist, author, b. 1894-1962)

Feb. 26 — *“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face...you must do the thing you cannot do.”* ~Eleanor Roosevelt (American First Lady, b. 1884-1962)

YOUNG MINDS AT WORK

Classical education puts young minds to work. It should lead young people to understand themselves and the world around them. Students must acquire concrete skills and gain knowledge in certain disciplines to participate fully and effectively in the human community. We are not here to make jeopardy champions. Cultural literacy is essential to a nation and its citizens. A culturally illiterate America cannot live up to the demands placed on it by history and a culturally illiterate individual cannot comprehend vast areas of knowledge necessary for his own well-being.

Terrence Moore
Classical Charter School Founder
Author

VALENTINE CELEBRATIONS

For those parents and guardians who are new to Xavier:

Xavier does not observe Valentine’s Day during the school day, either through parties or exchanging Valentine cards and candy.

We also ask that parents do not bring flowers and/or candy bouquets of any sort or have them delivered to the school. It is a logistical nightmare for the office staff.

THANK YOU!