



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.

November, 2018

Volume 8 Issue 3

SCHOOLING FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

There is an educational philosophy that is being played out in the technologically savvy American public education system – it is the notion that “knowledge for knowledge’s sake” is of little value, for at the world’s fingertips are all the information and facts anyone might need to access. It is true that the world’s factual information may be in our smartphones, but that doesn’t mean the collective wisdom of Western Civilization can be accessed, understood, and lived out via a Google search.

Content matters. Not just any content, but one that focuses on the training of a child’s mind by using the great ideas of history and literature. This is essential to developing reasoning skills and the kind of character and virtue necessary for navigating the politically and economically unstable 21st century.

There are those who believe that living in the twenty-first century changes everything – the way we must think, the way we must learn and the way we must navigate our lives. In addition, skills are desperately needed to prepare students to fill a job market that is ever changing. Students need transferable skills. While this may be true, there is no such thing as transferable skills of any sort that don’t require the use of domain-specific content knowledge. Even knowing how to effectively “Google” something requires a significant vocabulary and a framework of pertinent knowledge to understand what to look for, and how to make sense of what is found.

I like to think that I possess 21st century skills. But my formal education, over

45 years ago, was not a skills-based education. Quite the contrary! It was content-laden, and heavily supplemented by my insatiable appetite to know more, which my school-teacher parents supported and encouraged. One of my favorite past-times was sifting through the *World Book Encyclopedia*, exploring any interesting idea or article that struck my fancy. My family had many quality books and magazines such as the *Reader’s Digest*, *National Geographic*, and several science periodicals that rotated through our home – introducing me to a vast world. To the extent that I am a 21st century learner, it was because my mind was immersed in content from my earliest days.

In founding Xavier, it was my hope that all children and families, who would take the challenge, could eat from a similar plate of Goodness – books and content knowledge which would in turn feed the skills needed not just for this century, but any century. It is my belief that all children benefit from a content-rich learning environment. Even those children who have been marginalized by poverty and their own lack of access to a rich learning environment can attain tools necessary to be leaders in adulthood.

Unlike the conventional paradigm of education, a classical model embraces content delivered through direct-explicit-interactive instruction. This model is extremely powerful when used effectively. Through this method all children have the opportunity to participate in their learning as a whole group.

(Cont. pg. 2)

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.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 11/9— Xavier Dress Up Day
Disney Day
- 11/15— Board Meeting—6 p.m.
- 11/19-23— Fall//Thanksgiving
Break— **NO SCHOOL**
- 11/26— School Security and
Safety Meeting
- 11/28— School Security and
Safety Assembly—2:15 p.m.
- 12/7— Xavier Dress Up Day
Ugly Christmas Sweater
- 12/14— Sadie Hawkins Dance (7-12)
7-10 p.m.
- 12/17— Winter Showcase (Gr. 5/6)
5:30 p.m.
- 12/18— Roman Festival (Gr. 3)
5:30 p.m.
- 12/19— Winter Showcase (Gr. K-2)
- 12/20— Medieval Tournaments
(Gr. 4) 5:30 p.m.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY cont.

It is a model that makes learning productive for everyone.

As the nation moves steadily toward “student-centered,” mastery-based learning, which often focuses on teaching to existing interests and strengths of students, Xavier continues to focus on what students need to learn and know, whatever their strengths or gifts. We rightly focus on hard work, grit, and persistence. As educational researcher, Carol Dwek points out, focusing on individual gifts, strengths and intelligence actually “discourages progress, whereas a belief that hard work will make you smarter can indeed, with hard work, make you smarter.” As one of our very own students stated when asked what she tells her non-Xavier friends about her homework – “I tell them I’m getting smarter.”

We work hard to ensure that all students have the opportunity to pursue an education that in centuries past was reserved for the elite. Here at Xavier we are not redefining education to accommodate the 21st century; we are offering all students the opportunity to experience an education spanning the ages – a traditional one. From our perspective, this type of schooling can be summed up in one word - priceless.

Becky Baird
Xavier Co-founder

PILLAR OF THE MONTH

PERSEVERANCE

We spurn despair and strive to complete tasks to the best of our abilities, regardless of the difficulty. We respond creatively to overcome obstacles and ask for help when necessary.

Nov. 5 – *“It’s hard to beat the person who never gives up.”*

~Babe Ruth (b.1895-1948, legendary American Major League baseball player)

Nov. 12 – *“Nothing really worth having is easy to get. The hard-fought battles, the goals won with sacrifice, are the ones that matter.”*

~ Aisha Tyler (b.1970 - , American actress, comedian, author)

November 19 – THANKSGIVING/FALL BREAK

Nov. 26 – *“It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.”*

~ Albert Einstein (b.1879-1955, German-born physicist)

BOX TOPS

Please continue to bring in box tops for PFA. Each classroom (K-6) has a drop off container. We will continue to collect box tops through the spring of 2019.

Thank you!

MINGLE JINGLE

If you are new to Xavier you may not be aware that we hold a big holiday vendor event called Mingle Jingle each December to raise money for the character scholarships that are awarded to our senior class.

A few years ago this was Cooper Robbins’ senior project. Now Mrs. Robbins, one of our fourth grade teachers, has continued the tradition in order to ensure the funds are there for these scholarships.

If you have a side business or know of anyone that does, we should have a few openings this year. The event is on December 8th from 10-4 and the cost is \$50 for a spot, please contact Mrs. Robbins, rrobbins@xaviercharter.org, for more information.

Remember

...we ask each Xavier family to donate 20 volunteer hours during the course of the school year. Watch for bulletins, newsletter info, and teacher contacts for opportunities to serve your classroom and school. Board meetings, parent/teacher conferences, PFA, etc. all count toward volunteer hours.