



# 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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## REFLECTIONS

by Jon Goss

I can say in no uncertain terms that my first year at Xavier Charter School has been a very rewarding experience for me. I believe my preparation and journey to this classical school began when I was transferred during my sixth grade year to a Country Day School in Connecticut. There I received a traditional education very similar to the one we offer today at Xavier Charter School. I read the classics, learned through direct instruction and studied Latin for four years. My parents felt strongly that I would be better prepared by going to a school that provided an education that had proven success for 100 years than continuing on at the local school. They were right. That change to the Country Day school made all the difference in my life. I went on to attend two very old schools founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a boarding school in Massachusetts and then to a Liberal Arts College in New Hampshire. As an administrator at Xavier Charter School. I have talked to many families about their reasons for choosing Xavier Charter and I have learned that my story is quite similar to theirs. The big difference being that at the age of 16 I lived at school far away from my parents.

A little more about me: In 1986 I met my future wife in Boston. She grew up in Buhl. That answers the frequently-asked question "how did someone who comes from Connecticut end up in Idaho?" As soon as I arrived to a ranch 10 miles north of Bliss, I knew that this beautiful area was the place for me. I have grown to love and cherish, the wide-open spaces, friendly people, and easy-pace of living that Southern Idaho is known for.

Much of my career in Idaho has been dedicated to education. Over the past 23 years I have taught at several schools,

Buhl High School, Bliss Middle and High School, Wendell High School, Canyon Ridge High School and now Xavier Charter School. As I look back it is interesting to note that I have taught in every size school in this area, 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A. The content areas I have taught are all levels of secondary Math, Economics, US History, American Government and Latin.

Over my career, I have experienced many educational trends that have been adopted by our nation and our Idaho Department of Education. Educational experts have often claimed that the constant pressures to change our educational programs have resulted in "curricular chaos." While it is worthy that our surrounding public schools offer career-ready classes and gear their curriculum to performing well on standardized tests, I am impressed with how the Xavier Charter School Leadership has stayed true and has been unwavering in their mission to provide "a classical, intellectually rigorous, content-rich, liberal arts education, preparing students to excel in every duty and guiding them toward wisdom and virtue."

I firmly believe that the students in this area are very fortunate to have the opportunity to choose a school that allows them to take an educational path that is similar to the one many of our most influential and successful Americans have taken before them.

Education author and researcher, Mike Schmoker, shared an excerpt from an interview with Harvard President, Derek Bok who appeared on National Public Radio in 2006, "emphatically endorsing the value of a basic liberal arts education.

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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.*

### OCTOBER EVENTS

- 10/9— Spirit Week—  
Dress Up Day  
Crazy Hair
- 10/10— Spirit Week  
Dress Up Day  
Tie Dye
- 10/11— Spirit Week  
Dress Up Day  
Class Color
- 10/11— Fall Frolic  
5:00-7:00 p.m.
- 10/15— Vision/Hearing  
Screening
- 10/17— Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m.
- 10/18— Homecoming  
7:00-10:00 p.m.  
(9-12)
- 10/28-31— Parent/Teacher  
Conferences  
(K-6 by appointment)
- 10/31— Kinder—NO SCHOOL  
GR. 1-12 Early Release
- 10/30-31— Parent/Teacher  
Conferences  
(Arena Style)  
3:30-6:00 p.m. Wed.  
1:30-3:30 p.m. Th.
- 11/1— NO SCHOOL (K-12)



## Reflections...

Bok extolled such an education not only for its contribution to intellectual and personal growth, but also because a liberal arts education is “what employers are really asking for.”

They believe today’s graduates don’t write well enough, don’t think clearly enough, don’t have a good enough ethical sense, don’t understand the relationship of business to the larger social and public policy problems of the United States—they aren’t globally aware. (Rehm, 2006)

Mike Schmoker reflected on Mr. Bok’s comments and he mentioned “aren’t these the skills and dispositions we want all students to possess, whether or not they attend college? One recent study confirms that such skills are needed in 120 of the most common high-paying jobs and professions that don’t require a college education (Olson, 2006). Moreover, a liberal arts education helps students develop judgment and confidence and equips them to more fully contribute to the world they live in.”

Most importantly, and what makes me so proud to be affiliated with Xavier Charter School, is the emphasis this school places on building character. I see character building everywhere on this campus; during the morning meeting, at every Congrego, on our walls, in the classrooms while students study and discuss the great works of our predecessors.

Even though I have had a short tenure at this school, I have been very encouraged to hear from recent graduates that their rigorous classical, liberal arts training at Xavier Charter School has prepared them well for the wide variety of post-secondary choices they have made. I believe this is one of the great strengths and timeless aspects of our educational model. A student that graduates with an Xavier Charter School degree will have many post-secondary educational doors open to them.

## OCTOBER PILLAR OF THE MONTH

**RESPECT** — We regard others and ourselves as deserving of kind and just treatment. Our conduct is considerate and polite. We look for the good in others and demonstrate compassion. Our attitudes toward others and their property reflects the way we wish to be treated.

Oct. 7 – “*Respect was invented to cover the empty place where love should be.*” ~Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (Russian novelist/known for *War and Peace*, b.1828-1910)

Oct. 14 – “*Everyone should be respected as an individual, but no one idolized.*” ~Albert Einstein (German born physicist, b.1879-1955)

Oct. 21 – “*One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say.*” ~Bryant H. McGill (Author/speaker, b.1969- )

Oct. 28 – “*To the living we owe respect, but to the dead we owe only the truth.*” ~Voltaire (French Enlightenment writer/philosopher, b.1694-1778)

*“When one door closes,  
another opens; but we of-  
ten look so long and so re-  
gretfully upon the closed  
door that we do not see  
the one which has opened  
for us.”*

Alexander Graham  
Bell