

Xavier Classical Education Tenets

1. Classical Education and Western Civilization

- a. At Xavier Charter School Western Civilization study is the cornerstone of all subjects.
- b. Xavier's primary founding purpose is to provide students with a coherent narrative of the United States of America's rise, looking for historical evidence of who America is as a nation.
- c. Historical education is Xavier Charter Schools' core civic responsibility.
- d. It is the fundamental responsibility of a Classical Education to preserve a nation's civic culture, national identity, and its store of historical artifacts.
- e. The classical education approach is pro-human and pro-humanity.
- f. Xavier does not glorify conquest, enslavement, oppression, social injustice, and similarly hopeless characteristics.
- g. The purpose of the study of Western Civilization at Xavier Charter School is to educate students in the classical tradition, preparing them to lead full and virtuous lives.

2. American Classical Education -- Classical education in America promotes American culture and ideals.

- a. Traditional Ideals
 1. Respect for the Founding Fathers' intellectual virtue
 2. Individual self-government
 3. Responsibilities of citizenship
 - a. Virtuous Personhood
 - b. Support and defend the Constitution of the United States
 - c. Participate in society as an informed voter, juror, and taxpayer
 - d. Preserve liberty for future generations of Americans
 - e. Revere and obey the law
 - f. Service to his/her fellow man
 - g. Respect individual human worth and dignity--There is a fundamental importance to each individual human life. Each individual, no matter what his or her station in life, is a separate and distinct being and has value. This concept of the dignity and worth of the individual is of overriding importance in American thought and civic duty.
 4. Understanding of American primary sources including the nation's founding documents
 5. American Agency
 - a. The American ideal that people are able to fulfill their own destiny, rely on themselves rather than others, and that they believe in the promise that through hard work and perseverance life can be different and better; the idea that through self-reliance individuals have control over the course of their lives.
 - b. Xavier Charter School teaches that America has common knowledge, virtues, ideals, language, and commitments
 - c. Xavier Charter School is patriotic and promotes a sense of national loyalty as opposed to being citizens of the world.
 - d. Individuals participate in the world as citizens of America first

3. Religion

- a. Ancient religions are studied– Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and major mythologies.
- b. The ancient religions are worth studying to see the cause and effect in history at a particular time in a particular era.
- c. To speak of religion in a historical context is relevant, appropriate, and truthful.
- d. Care is taken not to present religion so that students can equalize them, or to find their common ground, but to understand their impact on humanity throughout the ages.

4. Reason and Logic

- a. The correct use of reason and logic is taught at Xavier Charter School.
- b. Logic's purpose is to clarify understanding while seeking truth.
- c. Logic's purpose is to restrain emotional reactivity.
- d. Logic cultivates reason to better enable human beings to distinguish good from evil, truth from falsehood, better from best.
- e. "Dialectic," or logic, is "the search for truth through resolution of disagreement through rational discussion. It results in probable truth or the most reasonable resolution of opposite opinions." (Cheryl Swope)

5. Classical Virtue versus Modern Values

- a. Modern Values embrace characteristics society most prizes: tolerance which encompasses being kind, non-judgmentalism, happiness, comfort/convenience and fairness.
- b. Aristotle defined virtue as "excellence at being human." Historically it is also described as, "the study of Man as he is, but also Man as he ought to be."
- c. Four Cardinal Virtues –
 - i. Temperance – virtue of the appetites (moderation)
 - ii. Prudence – virtue of the intellect (wisdom)
 - iii. Fortitude – virtue of the will (heart)
 - iv. Justice – harmony of the soul (right ordering of the other three)

6. The True, the Good and the Beautiful

- a. Xavier Charter School teaches students to seek and discover truth so that they can then act on what is good and beautiful in this life.
- b. The good of anything is found in its ability to accomplish for what it was created, to realize its purpose for existence.
- c. The good is possible only in the light of truth. Not truth as it is often defined today, by personal preference or popular consensus, but truth as defined by logic and reason, independent from opinions and emotions.
- d. The love and appreciation for beauty are not left to chance or whim but are acquired by the virtuous ordering of one's affections.

7. The Great Conversation

- a. The Great Conversation is the name given to the exchange of ideas throughout human discourse.
- b. The ideas have to do with our world, relationships, truth, knowledge, existence, hope, despair, and purpose - in short, who we are and why we live.
- c. Socratic Discussion and Response based on logic and reason through the spoken and written word is both the process and culmination of classical training.