

The Vision



Highlighting Virtue:

• The foundation of justice is good faith.

Marcus Cicero

• A man's vanity tells him what is honor, a man's conscience what is justice.

Walter Savage Landor



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Why So Much History?

There seems to be a tremendous amount of emphasis on the subject of history here at TPS. Three or four history texts per class, truckloads of historical fiction, pictures of historical figures all over the place and, worst of all — huge timelines on the walls!

Is this the insidious plan of a cruel puppet master who is pulling strings behind the scenes to torture innocent students with times, dates and places? If you ask most of the students, that is a given. However, there is a bigger picture.

We are not trying to torture anyone with a litany of dates, names and places — instead we are staying true to our mission to provide our students with a strong classical education. We recognize that in order to do so, "history"

must be the backbone of our educational process.

Why is history so important to a classical education? Because, history provides the context within which students can move from the grammar stage to the logic stage and finally into the rhetoric stage. When they begin to see the big picture or how one event led into another event or how one discovery led into another discovery and they begin to study the motivations of the people at that time then they are able to make wiser decisions concerning the here and now, which equates to better leadership for tomorrow.

The great modern historian and author, David McCullough, presented the seminar "American History and Amer-



ica's Future" in 2005 at a Hillsdale leadership seminar. During his presentation he said that the first thing we have to get across to students is the understanding that "we have to know who we were if we're to know who we are and where we are headed".

The study of history allows us to determine who we are today, based upon where we were yesterday, and this allows us to set the path for tomorrow. The ability to set a path is true leadership and explains why history is the backbone of the classical education here at TPS!

Did you know . . .

On this day, September 15th:

■ 1776 - British forces occupied New York City during the American Revolution.

■ 1857 - Timothy Alder earned a patent for the typesetting machine.

■ 1858 - The first mail service began to the Pacific Coast of the U.S.

under government contract. Coaches from the Butterfield Overland Mail Company took 12 days to make the journey between Tipton, MO and San Francisco, CA.

■ 1909 - A New York judge ruled that Ford Motor Company had infringed on George Seldon's patent for the "Road Engine." The ruling was later overturned.

■ 1949 - "The Lone Ranger" premiered on ABC. Clayton Moore was the Lone Ranger and Jay Silverheels was Tonto.

■ 1971 - Greenpeace was founded.

■ 1982 - The first issue of "USA Today" was published.

Leaving a TPS Heritage

The TPS vision statement reads, “*A Heritage of Virtue, Wisdom and Knowledge*”.

That sounds good, almost “bumper-sticker” good. But does it have any substance?

Actually, it does. It is a very purposeful vision statement that was adopted by the Board of Directors to serve as a guiding light now and for the future of TPS.

First, one must understand what a “heritage” really is. Simply put, it is a tradition that is handed down from one generation to the next. As TPS moves forward into the future it must always seek to be leaving a tradition behind it and that tradition is found in its students, especially its graduates.

What does this tradition look like? It is a fabric sewn with virtue, wisdom and knowledge, but specifically starting with virtue.



It must start with virtue. There are numerous examples throughout history of individuals who have been very wise and very knowledgeable, but have lacked virtue. As a result, they have used their gifts to wreak havoc on others. But, those who learned to utilize their wisdom and knowledge virtuously have worked to benefit all mankind.

Once a student has learned virtue they can then be taught wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to know when, where and to what extent one should act upon the knowledge that they have. Without this key discipline in their lives many have

sought to use the knowledge they have to do good, but have done so foolishly, causing more harm than good. But with wisdom, people learn to be judicious in all they say and do, and are therefore able to help and not hurt.

It is for the above reasons that knowledge — a key ingredient to a TPS heritage — must be the last focus and not the first. Knowledge is the tool, and when preceded by virtue and wisdom it is wielded effectively for the benefit of all.

So, yes, the vision statement has substance. It means something, something that you will see more and more of in the future!

What is “The Vision”?

There is the TPS vision statement and then there is this very humble piece of literature entitled “The Vision”. The purpose of the “The Vision” is to regularly communicate with the TPS stakeholders about the heart of TPS.

General Omar Bradley said, “We need to learn to set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.” In other words, we often get caught up in the day-to-day activities and then forget that we need to be continually looking forward, otherwise we might trip and fall.

“The Vision” allows us to look forward together. Whether you are a student, parent, or member of the staff it is always good to be reminded of why you chose TPS.

“The Vision” will be sent out on or about the 15th of each month. It will include snippets of information regarding the vision, mission and goals of the school. It will also remind us of what classical education is and what that looks like at TPS.

We need to learn to set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.

We will be sending “The Vision” by electronic mail, beginning with this issue. This is to move into a more technological phase for the school and to save on costs. The environmental impact is a bonus as well.

Other news bulletins regarding school activities and schedules will be sent out on a regular basis as well, to keep you fully informed throughout the school year.

George Washington on Civility

When George Washington was 14 years old, (equivalent to today’s 8th or 9th grader), young Mr. Washington sat down and penned 110 social rules entitled “*Washington’s Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation*”.



In short, they were a guide to virtuous conduct between people. The 89th rule is, “*Speak not evil of the absent, for it is unjust.*”

As we teach our students and children about virtue, especially justice, let us remember Washington’s 89th rule and ask, “How often do we speak badly about others when they are not around?”

If we can model virtuous conversation for our students and children, they will do the same.

Let us also remember that Mr. Washington was only 14 years old when he wrote what is now a very famous little book. Our students are quite capable! We just need to teach them!

First Quarter Virtue: Justice