



January 27, 2016

Dear Parents,

I recently scheduled a conversation with Mr. Watson about the creation of Aristoi Classical Academy's first senior ring. That conversation sent me on a hunt for my own college graduation ring that brought back fond memories of my time as a college student. Age and experience has brought about a newfound appreciation of what I gained from my small and personable college.

I believe that our students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members are gaining similarly meaningful experiences because all share a common mission and are developing lasting relationships. I'm grateful that the students truly know us, and we know them. I count it a privilege to be a part of this community of learners. Being a part of Aristoi is a life changing experience.

The ACA School Board, the Business Manager and I are in the throes of purchasing land and designing Phase I of the Master Plan for a new kindergarten through 12th grade campus. My purpose in writing today is to explain the growth of the school and why we require land and one unified campus. I attribute the growth of the school to the classical education philosophy which attracts our ACA families.

ACA parents often explain that their own core beliefs are complimented by the values and virtues they see in action at Aristoi and which their children's teachers reinforce each day. Aristoi parents desire that their children receive a firm educational foundation and grow to be good, caring, confident adults. The values that we teach are those which formed the foundation of Western Civilization – they have stood the test of time and are tried and true.

Classical education follows a child's natural stages of learning in a method of teaching known as The Trivium. Classical schools carefully reveal the history of the world to children at a deliberate and age appropriate pace. Just as parents teach their children life lessons at home in a manner appropriate to each child's developmental stage, the Trivium's method of instruction similarly educates students at a pace and depth appropriate to the students' developmental level.

Have you ever said or heard a parent say "I don't want to squash my child's spirit about learning"? Although our mission speaks of "an academically challenging Classical Liberal Arts education," the manner of teaching compiled of mastery of the subject and a passion for the subject by the teacher encourages the students to develop a passion for learning themselves. The rigor is not to discourage them in their educational career but to inspire them. Aristoi is a community of learners, a family of



education enthusiast, a school that wants nothing more than to be the spark that ignites a flame of curiosity and a desire to learn in each of our students.

I often say to the teachers “swim, salmon, swim!” Aristoi is countercultural; thus, it requires perseverance and hard work to develop the atmosphere and lesson plans that are conducive to pursuing what is TRUE, GOOD, and BEAUTIFUL. The fairy tales, classics, and great books we use are the tools that foster the great questions and conversations while shaping the student’s values and their own internal compass of core beliefs. The classical tradition is the best conduit I know of for developing “noble citizens of virtuous character.” Dr. Christian Kopff in *The Devil Knows Latin* writes, “the permanent things embedded in tradition are good things for human life”.

It’s been comical and heartwarming to hear from many parents who have told me that if they win the Powerball Lottery, they are going to donate the funds to build our school. I do not condone playing the lottery, but I have to admit that I also have dreamed of being able to fund a new campus. Our parents are “all in” and have encouraged and challenged me to seek the best for our students. The more I learn of their hearts desires for their children the better I understand how relevant classical education is for such a time as this.

Remember the Mother Goose poem *This is the House that Jack Built*? Well...

This is the school sowing classical education,
That met the needs of the parents of Katy,
That by word of mouth enrolled many students,
That required additional classrooms for the students,
That raised the need for additional land/buildings to house the students,
That increased the faculty and staff,
That formed the students,
That graduated noble citizens of virtuous character

Our consistent enrollment increases demand additional classroom space and our curriculum goals require space and land to develop the intellectual curiosity we foster in our students. That’s my story and I’m sticking to it!

Brenda Davidson
Headmaster and Superintendent