The Heart of Education

Summer Institute
Spokane, Washington
28 June, 2013
Agenda

1. Theme: What is the heart of education?

2. Introduction
   Heart
   Art
   Share

3. Arts (Aristotle)
   Types
   Cooperative
   Noble

4. Formation
   Heart
   Soul
   Character

5. Virtues
   Intellect
   Will
   Body

6. The heart of education, a definition.

7. Application and Discussion: Current Reforms.
The Heart of Education

“Education is formation of the heart:
A work of beauty painted on a living canvas.”
Education and Art

School of Athens
--Raphael

Snap the Whip
--Winslow Homer

Drawing Hands
--M. C. Escher
Art and “Progress”

100 Cans of Soup
--Andy Warhol

MC Mechanic
--Shane Willis
Fishing, Education, and Life

“Mark, I learned a life lesson that day.”
--Jasin
Share: Story from a Living Canvas

Your story of a teacher who practiced the art of education with heart
Arts (According to Aristotle)

Types

Cooperative

Noble
Art
τέχνη
Types of Art
Cooperative Arts
The Art Most Noble

*Education has for its object the formation of character.*

--Herbert Spencer
Formation

Heart

Soul

Character
The Art of Formation

“The human body is the best picture of the human soul.”

-- Ludwig Wittgenstein
Formation of the Heart and Soul

“You don’t have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body.”

-- C. S. Lewis
Character Formation: Intellect and Will

“Character is higher than intellect.”
--Ralph Waldo Emerson

“People do not lack strength, they lack will.”
--Victor Hugo
Virtues

Intellect

Will

Body
“A virtue is simply a good habit.”
--Mortimer Adler
## Intellectual Virtues

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<tr>
<th>Speculative Intellectual Virtues</th>
<th>Practical Intellectual Virtues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding</strong>: The habit of considering first principles of truth.</td>
<td><strong>Art</strong>: The habit of right reason about the good works to be made.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong>: The habit of grasping the truths of different subjects.</td>
<td><strong>Prudence</strong>: The habit of right reason about what to do or avoid.</td>
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<td><strong>Wisdom</strong>: The habit of rightly judging all things and setting them in order according to first causes.</td>
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“We sit down in our thinking chair and think, think.”

—Steve, Blue’s Clues
Moral Virtues

- **Prudence**: The habit of knowing what to do or avoid.
- **Justice**: The habit of giving others their due.
- **Temperance**: The habit of sacrificing for a greater good.
- **Fortitude**: The habit of facing hardship for the greater good.
Physical Virtues

Dance and karate for example.
Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.

- A. Lincoln
Who Should Control Education?

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children. They have the right and duty to choose the kind of education they most desire for their children.
Education is the cooperative art whereby a teacher works with the heart and soul of a child to nurture the formation of virtue, both intellectual and moral.
Politics?

China’s new education reform: Reducing importance of test scores

Yong Zhao
What is Education?

“Untethered to any genuine philosophy of education, our current reforms will disappoint us, as others have in the past.”

Diane Ravitch
Will Current Reforms Disappoint Us?

To what philosophy is education reform tethered?
Guiding Principles (whitehouse.gov)

• Economic future
• Economic competitiveness
• Succeed in a global economy
• Complete and competitive education from cradle to career
The Problem With Current Reforms

• Common Core

• High Stakes Testing

• Smarter Balanced?
A Fairy Tale

The WASL Has No Clothes
The Newest Problem: TPEP

• What is the philosophy of education behind the Teacher and Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP)?

• Will Evaluation “With Teeth” Reform Education for the Better?

• Conflict with Education as a “Cooperative Art”
Out of Balance

EDUCATION REFORM WRITTEN BY POLITICIANS INSTEAD OF TEACHERS

THAT FIGURES. HE'S USING BLACK CHALK.
A Balanced Voice

[Images of book covers: "A Death and Life in the Great American School System" by Diane Ravitch, "The Language Police" by Diane Ravitch, and "Left Back" by Diane Ravitch]
Irony: America and China each embracing the other’s past

Yong Zhao

State Control Versus Family Control: Out of Balance
The ultimate end of education is happiness or a good human life, a life enriched by the possession of every kind of good, by the enjoyment of every type of satisfaction.
What Can I Do?

• Be the little girl—speak the truth
  – About education as formation of the soul
  – About a century of failed reforms (Ravitch)
  – About reversing the current errors in reform
    • Nix Common Core
    • Halt High Stakes Testing
    • Reduce Federal and State Control
    • Promote Family Control
What Can I Do?

- Make educational decisions for your children

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children. They have the right and duty to choose the kind of education they most desire for their children.
Questions?