



NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE

FROM THE DESK OF THE UPPER SCHOOL HEAD

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ON SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

BY CHARLIE MOONEY, UPPER SCHOOL HEAD

When I was hired, the board and administration communicated that Valor's Upper School is very much in a development phase. This information was both daunting and exciting to me. There have been days that I've wondered if I've bitten off more than I can chew, but I'm reminded that I serve the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Of course it's more than I can chew. Serving the Lord will always exceed our own natural capacities. His work can only be done in His strength and in His timing.

The timing is the hard part for me. In my impatience, I want to make everything as it should be right now; however, my own administrative experience has shown me that healthy growth is slow and sustainable. That is our approach. The Upper School will not become all things to all people overnight. It will take time to do things right the first time. There is a saying among builders that applies--"Measure twice; cut once."

I ask sincerely for your patience as we measure twice and cut once to make Valor's Upper School a model of academic excellence and God-honoring faithfulness.

SEPT & OCT EVENTS

- Labor Day (Mon, 9/6) - NO SCHOOL
- Teacher Training (Fri, 10/8) - NO SCHOOL
- Fall Break (Mon & Tues, 10/11, 10/12) - NO SCHOOL
- PSAT - 11th Grade (Wed, 10/13)
- End of Q1 (Fri, 10/15)
- Rhetoric Student Retreat (TBD)

CLASSICAL CORNER: AUTHORITY & LIBERTY

BY BROOKE RAMSEY, LOWER SCHOOL HEAD

Our nation was founded upon the notion that "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are inalienable rights given by God. But what is liberty? And how should the ideas of personal freedom and the biblical injunction to "submit to every authority" inform our parenting?

Charlotte Mason, along with the others who have gone before her in the classical tradition, emphasized authority as delegated by God according to his or her position or office. As a parent, you are appointed by God to benevolently rule the domain of your home. Authority rightly executed brings order and peace to both the home and society. In chapter 4 of Volume IV of *Home Education*, Mason writes, "Authority is the condition without which liberty does not exist" (Mason 69). Docility--willing teachability-- must also be at play.

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"Authority is the condition without which liberty does not exist."

Charlotte Mason, *Home Education Vol. IV*



HOUSEKEEPING

Keeping you up-to-date on the miscellaneous information so we can move forward together with confidence and clarity.

- Starting this year, all marks received by Upper School students are officially recorded in FACTS-RenWeb. Parents may access these at any time.
- Reminder: The Logic School chapel time will begin when the Valor Gymnasium renovation is complete. Until then, the Logic School students will go to Bible class in its place on Monday mornings. They must still be in chapel uniform dress.
- Upper School clubs will also commence when the gym has been completed.
- This year, the Home Assignment Sheet (HAS) is being printed for the students and given out during Schole. The HAS will not change after that time.
- Student learning accommodations and communications must always start with Mr. Mooney and Mr. Perry. As we solidify our accommodations program, it is important that the process begins with the administration before contacting teachers with information regarding IEPs and/or 504 plans.
- Typing club is back! Logic School students will have 15 minutes of Typing Club activities to do each Tuesday and Thursday as part of the Composition portion on the HAS.
- See the current Logic School office hours below. If not listed, the teacher's office hours are schedule on a case-by-case basis.

L.S. School Day (MWF) Office Hours 3:30-4:00		Selected time on Tuesdays
Curtice, Stephanie	M,F	11:30-12:00
Engebretson, Julie	M,W	2:00-2:30
Groth, Janie	M,W	12:30-1:00
Mathis, Tina	W,F	12:30-1:00
Sessa, Chrissy	M,F	12:30-1:00
Reminder: Logic School faculty do not have office hours on Thursdays .		

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But here is where Ms. Mason adds depth to what most of us have read in the popular parenting books of our day: both docility and authority actually exist within every human being. In fact, Mason says, they act like opposing centrifugal and centripetal forces which keep a planet following its course around the sun.

“The crux in bringing up children is to find the mean which shall keep a child true to his elliptical orbit” (Mason 70).

How do we encourage docility toward our authority in the home while at the same time recognizing the child's innate desire to rule? Finding this balance is a matter of life or death in our relationship with our children. To “keep a child true to his elliptical orbit,” Mason was quick to recognize the dangers of a too heavy-handed approach. Instead of emulation (which is what we want—our children willingly following our example), authoritarianism often leads to dissimulation, when a child pretends to follow authority but inwardly rebels.

The way forward, according to Mason, was to encourage in the child “proud subjection,” not subservience. How do we cultivate this willing teachability and not the subservience which, despite our best intentions, creates hypocrites of our children? Ms. Mason gives us a few helpful points.

- PRAY and ask for the Holy Spirit's help.
- Remind your children that you are also under the authority of God and others.
- Enjoy the common pursuit of knowledge with them.
- Give family jobs to your children for which they are solely responsible.
- Remind them that you can tell them what to do, but they must choose to rule their own feelings and thoughts.
- Allow the natural consequences of children's choices to play out. These real-life lessons teach better than any lecture on our part!



Charlotte Mason