



David Hicks: Commentary on Hospitality, Education History, and Classical Architecture

Lesson 8: Educational Leadership and the Role of Parents

Outline:

What do school leaders need to remember?

- School leadership consists of a large paradigm where the Head of School has a challenging assignment answering to the board, alumni, parents, teachers, and students.
- Tension exists between finding good teachers who are there for students and teachers who believe the school exists primarily for them.
- Leaders have to bear in mind at all times what do students need in terms of their human formation and learning.
- Without that point of view, leaders will be tossed about by their constituents' point of view every day.
 - Over time, that point of view becomes the character and the culture of the school for better or worse.
- As Headmaster, you are likely to step into either a supportive environment or a skeptical proving ground.
- It takes positive thinking and refusal to be discouraged to lead and bring a diverse community together.
- David shares his dismay over leading (secular) schools under the political and social pressures of the day.
 - Since such pressures are unavoidable in life, why not inoculate students with the liberal arts so they can ask real questions of these issues?

What role do parents play in education?

- No matter where or how a child is educated, parents are their child's primary teacher.
- It is the privilege of parents to daily provide learning opportunities for their children no matter their social class.
 - Far too often parents offload their teaching responsibility to others.
 - In David's view, parents ought to put a priority on teaching.
- An argument can be made in favor of not sending kids to public schools *because of* the socialization by other kids.
 - Despite good instruction at school, kids are a lot like their friends at the end of the day.