

# Palmarium

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.



## Reflections on Humility

### ••••• Assorted Quotes



“Humility makes great men twice honourable.”  
*Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) - maxim in Poor Richard’s Almanack*

“A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle.” *Benjamin Franklin (1709-1790) - attributed to Franklin in The New Age Magazine in 1958.*

“There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.” *Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961)*

“Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends.” *Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) - from speech in July 1945*

“There are two things that men should never weary of, goodness and humility; we get none too much of them in this rough world among cold, proud people.” *Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) - in Kidnapped*

“Humility is the secret of the wise.” *Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)*

“Do you wish people to think well of you? Don’t speak well of yourself.” *Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)*



Benjamin Franklin  
(1706-1790)

*Painted by Joseph-Siffrein Duplessis in 1785*

Image from website:  
<http://www.npg.si.edu/exh/brush/ben.htm>

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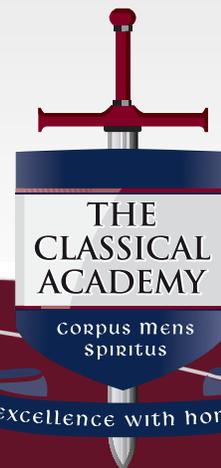
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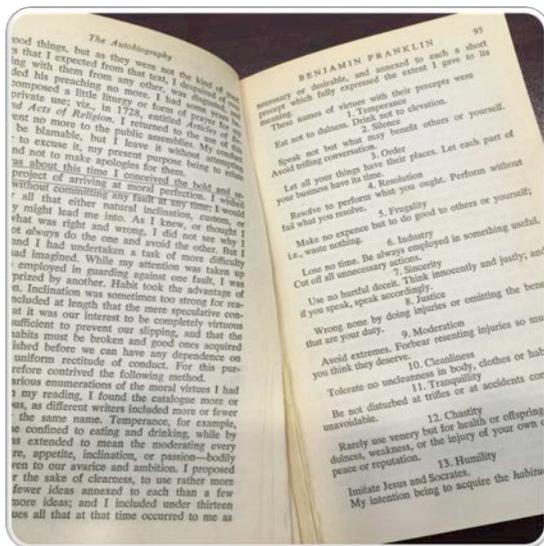


- Whole Person Focused
  - Relationship Based
  - Classically Oriented
  - Idea Centered

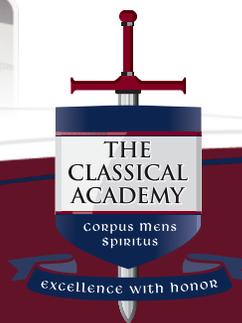
## Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography: Thoughts on Humility

"My list of virtues contained at first but twelve. But a Quaker friend having kindly informed me that I was generally thought proud, that my pride showed itself frequently in conversation, that I was not content with being in the right when discussing any point, but was overbearing and rather insolent – of which he convinced me by mentioning several instances – I determined endeavoring to cure myself if I could of this vice or folly among the rest, and I added *Humility* to my list, giving an extensive meaning to the word. I cannot boast of much success in acquiring the *reality* of this virtue, but I had a good deal with regard to the *appearance* of it. I made it a rule to forbear all direct contradiction to the sentiments of others and all positive assertion of my

own. I even forbade myself agreeable to the old laws of our Junto, the use of every word or expression in the language that imported a fixed opinion, such as 'certainly,' 'undoubtedly,' etc.; and I adopted instead of them 'I conceive,' 'I apprehend,' or 'I imagine' a thing to be so or so, or 'It so appears to me at present.' . . . I soon found the advantage of this change in my manners: The conversations I engaged in went more pleasantly; the modest way in which I proposed my opinions procured them a readier reception and less contradiction; I had less mortification when I was found to be in the wrong, . . . In reality there is perhaps no one of our natural passions so hard to subdue as *pride*, disguise it, struggle with it, beat it down, stifle it, mortify it as much as one pleases, it is still alive and will every now and then peep out and show itself. You will see it perhaps often in this history. For even if I could conceive that I had completely overcome it, I should probably be proud of my humility."



My personal very worn copy of Franklin's *Autobiography* from college days (so, yes it's old)



### CHARACTER STRENGTHS

**CLASSIFICATIONS and DEFINITIONS:** In *Strengths and Virtues*, Christopher Peterson

"Humility is the most difficult of all virtues to achieve; nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of oneself." In their handbook the following key features of humility, developed by J. P. Tangney in her review of theoretical literature, are identified – "an accurate (not underestimated) sense of one's abilities and achievements; the ability to acknowledge one's mistakes, imperfections, gaps in knowledge, and limitations (often with reference to a higher power); openness to new ideas, contradictory information, and advice; keeping one's abilities and accomplishments in perspective; relatively low focus on the self or an ability to 'forget the self'; appreciation of the value of all things, as well as the many different ways that people and things can contribute to our world" (see pages 461-462 in Peterson and Seligman book cited below).

Peterson, C., & Park, N. (2009). Classifying and measuring strengths of character. In S. J. Lopez & C. R. Snyder (Eds), *Oxford handbook of positive psychology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (pp. 25-33). New York: Oxford University Press.

[www.viacharacter.org](http://www.viacharacter.org)

Peterson, C., & Seligman, M. E. P. (2004). *Character strengths and virtues: A handbook and classification*. New York: Oxford University Press and Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

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TEMPERANCE

**FORGIVENESS:** Mercy; accepting others' shortcomings; giving people a second chance

**HUMILITY:** Modesty; letting one's accomplishments speak for themselves

**PRUDENCE:** Careful; cautious; not taking undue risks

**SELF-REGULATION:** Self-control; disciplined; managing impulses & emotions

## Grandparent's Day

During the month of September each elementary school hosted a Grandparent's Day with lots of great opportunities for student and family interaction. Grandparent's Day is a highlight of each school year and this year Dr. Sojourner was able to speak at every one, sharing a touching story about the impact of grandparent's in the lives of his own children. Included on this page are several photos from each campus. As you can tell the events were packed. Thanks to all who attended and to all of the staff who worked out the variety of details for these very important events.



## East Elementary



## Central Elementary



## Dr. Sojourner at Central and North

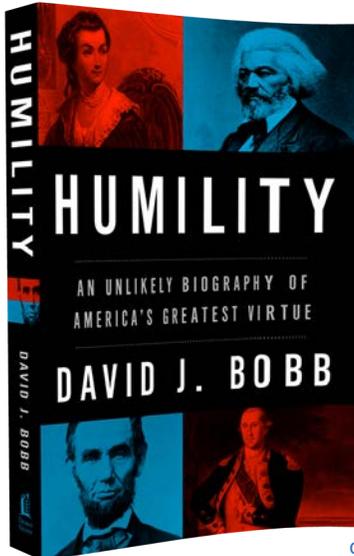


## North Elementary



## Humility: An Unlikely Biography of America's Greatest Virtue by David J. Bobb

The following is quoted directly from the description on the Amazon website of Dr. Bobb's 2013 book. He is currently the Executive Director of Citizen Education at Hillsdale College. I just ordered to add to my personal collection while preparing this latest PALMARIUM edition – *Wes Jolly, TCA Director of Academic Services.*



**There is no formula for becoming humble--not for individuals, and not for nations.**

Benjamin Franklin's dilemma--one he passed on to the young United States--was how to achieve both greatness and humility at once. The humility James Madison learned as a legislator helped him to mold a nation, despite his reputation as a meek, timid, and weak man. The humility of Abigail Adams fed her impossible resilience. Humility of all kinds is deeply ingrained in our American DNA. Our challenge today is to rediscover and reawaken this utterly indispensable, alarmingly dormant national virtue before it's too late.

In *Humility: An Unlikely Biography of America's Greatest Virtue*, Dr. David J. Bobb traces the "crooked line" that is the history of humility in political thought. From Socrates to Augustine to Machiavelli to Lincoln, passionate opinions about the humble ruler are literally all over the map. Having shown classical, medieval, and Christian ideas of humility to be irreconcilable, Dr. Bobb asserts that we as a nation are faced with a difficult choice. A choice we cannot put off any longer.

"The power promised by humility is power over oneself, in self-government," says Dr. Bobb. "[But] humility's strength is obscured by the age of arrogance in which we live." George Washington's humility, as great as it was, cannot substitute for ours today. We must reintegrate this fundamental virtue if there is to be an American future. The rediscovery of humility's strength awaits.

"Setting before us several exemplary models of humble greatness, Bobb convincingly shows that the achievement of true greatness is not contradicted by humility, but perfected only through its cultivation." **Patrick Deneen, Professor of Constitutional Studies, University of Notre Dame**



Humility is not thinking less of yourself,  
it's thinking of yourself less.



# Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

## ALT Meetings (11:00 am-12:30 pm):

- Wed, Oct 8: ALT Meeting - Colorado Room
- Tue, Oct 21: ALT Meeting - Colorado Room
- Wed, Nov 12: ALT Meeting - Colorado Room
- Wed, Dec 3: ALT Meeting - Colorado Room
- Wed, Dec 17: ALT Meeting - Colorado Room

## Due Dates and Upcoming Events:

- Fri, Oct 3: D20 External Review Meeting (Wes & Cheri)
- Mon, Oct 6: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Tue, Oct 7: DAS/Central Principal Mtg (9:00-10:00 am)
- Tue, Oct 7: Square Dance / Pot-Luck (CSP)
- Thu, Oct 9: DAS/East Principal Mtgs (9:00-11:00 am)
- Thu-Fri, Oct 9-10: Parent-Teacher Conferences (Traditional)
- Mon-Tue, Oct 13-14: October Teacher In-Service

Mon-Fri, Oct 13-17: Fall Break for students

- Tue, Oct 14: DAS/North Principal Mtgs (8:00-11:00 am)
- Wed, Oct 15: National PSAT/NMSQT Exam
- Mon, Oct 20: Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Wed, Oct 22: D20 External Review Team @ TCA (all day)
- Mon, Oct 27: DAS/CCCI Meeting (8:30-9:30 am)
- Mon-Tue, Oct 27-28: Parent-Teacher Conferences (CP)
- Mon-Thu, Oct 27-30: Teacher-Teacher Conferences (CSP)
- Mon, Nov 3: Cabinet Meeting (10:30-12:00)
- Tue, Nov 4: DAS/Central Principal Mtg (9:00-10:00 am)
- Thu-Sat, Nov 6-8: TCA *Guys and Dolls* Presentation
- Fri, Nov 7: Teacher In-Service (Secondary)
- Mon, Nov 10: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Tue, Nov 11: DAS/North Principal Mtgs (8:00-11:00 am)
- Thu, Nov 13: DAS/East Principal Mtgs (9:00-11:00 am)
- Thu-Sat, Nov 13-15: TCA *Guys and Dolls* Presentation



## Compliance and Accreditation Corner

Check here for updates on compliance and accreditation items as we move through the year:

### SAC BUSINESS TO COMPLETE:

- share SPF, site plans, and UIPs/SIPs with SAC
- e-mail SAC minutes to Cheri throughout the year

### ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

- **SIPs/UIPs** due to Cheri *Thursday, October 16.*
- **D20 External Review Visit** – *Wednesday, October 22.*
- **North Elementary Site Plan Training** – scheduled for *Tuesday and Wednesday, November 4-5.*



Creativity  
 Judgment  
 Honesty  
 Fairness  
 Bravery  
 HUMOR  
**Zest**  
**PERSEVERANCE**  
 Teamwork  
**Love**  
 Kindness  
**Leadership**  
 Social Intelligence  
 Love of Learning  
**Forgiveness**  
**H O P E**  
 PRUDENCE  
*Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence*  
 Humility  
 Spirituality  
 SELF-REGULATION  
**Gratitude**



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