THE FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION: CHARACTER

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If you think that the sole main purpose of education is academic performance, you should think twice. The purpose of education is to bring out the best from our students. It is not only about making good grades. It is not about earning money after graduation. It is not only about reaping honors and awards.

Education should prepare students how to learn and to develop a love for lifelong learning. Students need to learn to think for themselves. They need to be readied in handling the problems they will encounter, to live a life of purpose, and to understand the value of making a contribution to others and the society.

The hard fact is that knowledge without character gives students a weak foundation for facing the problems and temptations of life. You have heard a lot of stories about many intelligent and well educated people who ended up in trouble or in prison because of character flaws. Humane values are integral to be the foundation of education.

A good education should teach students to develop character traits and qualities such as courage, integrity, compassion, self-regulation, honesty, resilience, humility, and caring about others. To quote, Bertrand Russell, “You must believe that you can help bring about a better world. A good society is produced only by good individuals.”

Our students require the skills, inspiration, and character to live evocative lives and to make a positive impact in the world. The next time you prepare a lesson plan, never think that adding in a mixture of character formation is not necessary. It will and should always be a very important ingredient. Think of it as the salt for any food recipe.
Without it, your “cooking” would be tasteless and useless. A well-fulfilled educator contributes good people to society more than those that have contributed only intellectuals without heart.

References:

https://yeagerfamilyfoundation.org/character-education/  Nancy M. and Douglas M. Yeager Family Foundation