VALUES FORMATION: WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

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Not so many years ago, you needed to be 7 years old before you can enter grade school. Fast forward today, parents enthusiastically enroll their 2 years old on a nursery to learn how to solve algebraic expressions and read ancient glyphs. The above statements may have been an exaggeration, but it does not hide for fact that the concept of schooling continues to miss a crucial, if not the most important aspect of a child’s foundation: values. As one famous writer once said, “Isn’t it wrong that we only score about 10% of a student’s grade based on the character when it is this character that will eventually define the person he or she will become? “In Japan, for example, schools do not give students exams until they reach grade four (10 years old). Instead they just take small tests or tasks. Japanese educators believed that child’s character is more important than knowledge or cognitive development and that what can educators and parents do to help their students and children develop good character. So instead of doing Math and other scholarly lessons, they are actually taught about nationalism, respect to other people, to be gentle to animals and nature, and to be generous and humble. According to an online article which cited the ten (10) distinctive features of the Japanese education system, “the school attendance rate in Japan is about 99.99% and that around 91% of pupils reported that they never, or only in some classes, ignored what the teacher lectured. How many other countries can boast such statistics?” That’s what probably happens when you put an emphasis on the WHY first rather than teaching them the HOWs.What difference has it made for a child that knows how to multiply 100 by 30 divided by 90 raised to the power of 10 to a person fast forward some 30 years later is a corrupt politician or a good physician? Yet we always celebrate academic excellence above any other achievement a child can do in school. At least back then, we have awards like “Most Polite” and “Most
Courteous”. Today, we just label them “With Honors” And we dare ask, “What happened to the values and discipline of today’s generation?”

References: