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The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

Backpacking & Calculus—Not So Different After All

by Mr. Kent Bartel

W e at St. Andrew's are please to be offering our first Calculus course this year. Three seniors are taking the class which aims to prepare them for the college board Calculus advanced placement test in May. Though, in itself, this is an admirable goal, there are other reasons why taking advanced mathematics courses are important.

Mathematics is primarily an intellectual discipline even though it was developed in response to real-life problems. The process of manipulating symbols to arrive at a quantity of particular interest requires individuals to be trained in the "analytic imagination." In other words, how does a shepherd project the numbers of his flock in five years and anticipate the resources required to maintain this amount? With the proper training and mathematical tools, the shepherd can model the increase of the flock and plan for future needs. This really is not much different from what engineers do as they define the requirements of a rocket engine to launch a satellite or a person into space—the analytic imagination synthesizes real-world complexities with mathematical knowledge to closely predict real-world outcomes.

Calculus itself demands that the student wrestle with difficult concepts until they are absorbed. This process is not easy, because these concepts are not intuitively grasped like addition or subtraction. The men who originally formulated these theorems, Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibnitz, had outstand-

ing intellects and approached the problems of calculus with creativity to see the fundamental relationships. They had this analytic imagination we are speaking of, and were able to develop understanding that was completely innovative in humanity. We

set this knowledge before our students to encourage them to apply the tools they have learned imaginatively to the problems with which mankind—including themselves personally—continues to struggle. As their math teacher, I know that this is not an easy process, but in persevering, they are growing stronger and they will overcome.

The struggle to master calculus is much like climbing a mountain—it requires a lot of effort to get there and half-way up, one often questions if it is worth it. But like so many things in life, the reward is not always tangible or easy to

describe, it must be experienced to be fully understood.

This too is why we take St. Andrew's students backpacking and camping in the summers. The development of self-discipline and perseverance, like the nature of human beings, is both intellectual and physical. We organized two back-packing trips this past summer, a high school trip and a middle school/third-form (4th and 5th grade) trip. The older students hiked across Lassen Park in 5 days, both on the trail and cross-country, which was the longest trip we have done yet. The younger students had an easier trek, but we still put some miles in and had to deal with a thunder-storm the last

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Backpackers: l-r, Rebekah & JoAnna Waterman, Andrew Bradley, Sarah Waterman, Serena Howe, and Josiah Bartel

Convocation Address: 2007

What follows is the Address by Father Brian Foos, headmaster of St. Andrew's Academy, during the 2007 Convocation on October 17, 2007.

Welcome to St. Andrew's Fall 2007 Convocation. With our prayers and praises this evening, we have given ourselves yet again to God. We have dedicated the students of St. Andrew's, the families, and the staff all to God's use this year.

This is an important time in our school year. It is a good beginning: and a good beginning ought to be made. For we want to lay a solid foundation for our school year. Indeed, this is what we are all attempting to do with these students, on a larger scale: help them lay a foundation for their lives, something they can build upon in the years to come.

A group of men did something similar for us as a people, as a nation, in the building of a strong foundation for liberty and self-governance. A group of men called the Founding Fathers of America are still well known today for this work; men like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, Patrick Henry, John Jay and some 120 other men of record.

These men were amazing men—gifted Renaissance men, skilled as writers, inventors, statesmen, farmers, lawyers, orators, naturalists, musicians, linguists, clergy and churchmen, legislators, scholars, architects, intellectuals, businessmen, solid citizens and men of character—any of them fulfilling two, three and even four or more of these callings and characteristics. Furthermore, these men had an education very similar to the education to be found at St. Andrew's Academy. Thomas Jefferson's example is telling: he spoke some five or six languages, the foundation languages being Greek and Latin. He studied the great books and the great ideas of history and of his contemporary world. He taught himself Welsh so that he could do some translation work. He invented what was probably the first copying machine. He was a botanist and a gardener of amazing depth, naming a number of new species of plants. A visit to Monticello, Jefferson's home, will show you what an amazing architect he was as well.

Our Founding Fathers knew information very well. They built up their knowledge and skills until they were some of the finest orators, inventors, thinkers, statesmen, and writers in the world. They could even do Math (though I'm not sure about Calculus). However, what really set them apart was what they did with their skills. This is because our Founding Fathers still had the medieval concept of *noblesse oblige* as a part of their education. That little French phrase means "the obligation of the nobility." In other words, "to whom much is given, much is expected." Or, in the way I put it to my students, "if you've been given a good education, you're to use it to serve your fellow man."

"We have too many high-sounding words and too few actions that correspond with them."

It's helpful to put it that way, because here at St. Andrew's Academy, it fits very well into our Mission Statement:

The mission of St. Andrew's Academy is to equip our students with the tools of learning and to endow them with the wisdom of the ages so that they may serve God and their fellow man with virtue and strength.

The theme this year, as we graduate our largest class ever, is really seen in the phrase "serve God and their fellow man" from our mission statement. Our memory verses for the year and other choices of materials and projects throughout the year do and will reflect this theme. Usually, my convocation address also deals with the theme.

So, students—all of you, not just the seniors,—you have been given much. What will you do with it? For that matter, what will you do with it not just when you graduate and move on, but what will you do with it tomorrow? The next day?

Allow me to go back to the early years of our country and quote a founding "mother," Abigail Adams, John Adam's loving and very intelligent and thoughtful wife. She uses a rhetorical question to point out this idea of service: "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind, whom should we serve?" Of course, the option narrows quickly to our-

selves, and that's what our culture seems hell-bent on saying and encouraging in almost every way imaginable.

Mrs. Adams is also very practical: "We have too many high-sounding words," she says, "and too few actions that correspond with them." Sounds like an indictment of our culture, but she was talking of hers. And her culture and time encapsulated one of the best examples of selfless service in our country's history.

George Washington did not want to serve as President. He was a farmer, and he wanted to work the ground and live the rural life with his wife on their plantation, Mount Vernon. Yet when his country called him, he served—first as a delegate of the Continental Congress, then as General of the army, then as President of the Constitutional Convention, then as President of the United States for two terms.

You see, as Abigail Adams is rumored to have said, "Great necessities call forth great leaders." But these leaders did not just magically appear. They came forth because they had been prepared. They had a foundation that equipped them to lead by serving.

This is our goal for our graduates and for all our students even now as they work in their calling of being students. We want them to have a firm foundation. We want them to lead by serving. We want them to remember that "everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more." After all, St. Mark records that "... even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Jesus is the ultimate example of servant leadership. Though the phrase has been abused and marketed to death, there is still worth in the question: What would Jesus do? The answer: He would serve in justice and in truth and with charity—with selfless love for others. Ought we to do any less? Jesus says that "whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant" (Mark 10:43). Leadership is service: the "first will be last, and the last first" (Mark 10:31).

So, my students, what will you do with what has been given you? You didn't necessarily even ask for such an assignment,

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An Academic Calendar insert for *The Standard*.

Upcoming Events at St. Andrew's Academy for the months of **November and December, 2007**

Call the school for more information, 596-3343

First and Second Form Chico Field Trip Cherryholmes Bluegrass

Monday, 11/5, Leaving from school at 7:30 AM
First form students can be picked-up at 1:00 PM. Second
form students will finish the day at school.

2007-2008 Picture Days

Wednesday, 11/7 and Thursday, 11/8
May be postponed to the following week due to
inclement weather. Pictures by Erica Bartel Photogra-
phy, package details and pricing to follow.

Symphony Rehearsal for Christmas Concert

Sunday, 11/11, 6:00 PM, Location TBD
This is the only opportunity for the choir to
rehearse with the Susanville Symphony so please make
every effort for your student to attend.

November Outing - Archery at the Salvatores

Fri., 11/16, 8:30 AM at school or 9:15 AM at the
Salvatores. Ends at Noon. Learn archery technique
with target practice for all ages.

Thanksgiving Break

No school on Wed., 11/21, and Thurs. 11/22
Have a great Thanksgiving!!

Christmas Caroling

Fri., 11/23, meet at school at 5:00 PM for Pizza and
practice and then travel to B&B Booksellers to sing in
the season starting at 6:30 PM

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 11/25, 7:00-8:30 PM
Community Methodist Church, Chester
Please invite friends and extended family to join us in
this St. Andrew's tradition. Students are required to be
at the Methodist church at 5:50 PM in uniform with
choir robes in hand.

St. Andrew's Day Eucharist

Monday, 11/26, 7:35 AM - 8:15 PM
Join us as we celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew with a
morning Holy Communion Service during our chapel
time.

High School Italy Trip

11/28 - 12/11

Half School Day

Friday, 11/30, 7:35 AM - 11:30 AM
First through Third Form will have morning classes
Middle school will have study hall

First through Third Form Chico Field Trip Thomaseen Foley's - A Celtic Christmas

Monday, 12/3, Leaving from school at 7:30 AM
First form students can be picked-up at 1:00 PM. Second
and Third Form students will finish the day at school.

Christmas Break

Friday, 12/7/2007 through Tuesday, 1/1/2008
Have a blessed Christmas and a festive New Year!!

December Fencing

We will have fencing practice at the regular time on
12/4, 12/6, and 12/11, 12/13

St. Andrew's Symphony Rehearsal

Thursday, 12/13, 12:00 Noon - 3:00 PM
At St. Andrew's. Last fencing practice follows.

Susanville Symphony Performances

Friday, 12/14, 7:00 PM, Saturday, 12/15, 7:00 PM,
and Sunday, 12/16, 3:00 PM
Choir members must be at the Susanville Methodist
Church at 6:00 PM on Friday and Saturday
and at 2:00 PM on Sunday

Italy in December 2007!!

The St. Andrew's Academy High School Students are privileged this year to participate in a two-week long academic trip to Italy, home of pasta, the Sistine Chapel, Leonardo da Vinci, Dante, and Ferraris. This travel is a part of their academic classes and program at school, and is being led by the headmaster, Father Brian Fooks, and Miss Steinberg (the two of which teach most of the humanities classes to the high school, including History, Bible, Philosophy, languages and Literature) and includes lectures, discussion, meeting of local clergy and officers in the Roman Church, museum visits, and lots of scrumptious pasta.

Most of the high school students have been asking for a trip to Italy since last year, when they studied the Renaissance. They will fly into Rome, where a

Westwood local, Father Avram Brown, lives, and where they'll see St. Peter's and Vatican City (the Pope, however, had a scheduling conflict). They hope Father Brown will show them his favorite *gelateria* as well. In Florence, the Uffizi Gallery is a must-see, and the Boboli Gardens, which were laid out for Elenora di Toledo, wife of Cosimo I de' Medici in the 16th century. Also of interest to the artists in the group is Zecchi's, an excellent art-supplies store which ships world-wide.

Then it will be on to the canal city of Venice, to see St. Mark's, one of the best examples of Byzantine architecture in the

world, and where eating seafood is a must. Between Rome and Florence is the hill-town of Orvieto, where Luca Signorelli created his fresco cycle at the San Brizio chapel. The group also hopes to see the Alps and the town of Assisi, home of St. Francis, who was fond of preaching to the birds.

Since the group traveling to Italy makes up much of the St. Andrew's Academy choir, they will be singing their way through Italy. One of the favorite memories from the England 2005 Trip was singing in the oldest wooden church in England, Greenstead in Essex. It will be delightful to sing in other ancient places of worship around Italy.



Backpacking & Calculus from page 1 morning and on the hike out.

Every trip has a physically demanding element, but there are always rewards for those who attempt the trip. It is interesting that the hardest part is usually deciding to participate. Once I get them on the trail, there is no turning back. And looking back from the top of a mountain at the miles that we hiked stimulates the poetic imagination. We touch something splendid and immaterial. Being able to say "I survived" provides an unequalled sense of accomplishment, and we learn that difficulties can be overcome if we refuse to give in to voices that urge resignation.

Backpacking and Calculus: two so very different activities really share many connections because they are both hard. Both develop strength and discipline; both stretch our imaginations; and because they both deal with creation, we learn about the Creator as we strive to climb and to understand. These connections are at the heart of the education that we want for our students. Our culture calls us to avoid difficulties, but these young men and women will understand that only in the struggle do we really grow. And when others turn back, they will say, "Let's go for a hike!"

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for such blessings, or for being born in the United States of America, the richest country on earth; for having a full belly and plenty of clothes (even if I only see you in one lovely style); for having safety and peace in your community; for such favor to be here at St. Andrew's Academy—in fact, many days, you're probably not particularly pleased with that blessing,

because it means hard work and you find yourself tired. I understand; I'm often tired too.

But God is shaping you. You are being made into a vessel for service to God and your fellow man. What will you do with the blessings you have received? How will you impact your community around you? How will you help those who are helpless? How will you give back? What will you teach your children? How will you change the world?

Now, mind you, changing the world takes some time and some doing, and most of us will change the world one person at a time. We will, however, impact a number of people during our life. What will be your impact on them? I pray that it will be to serve them and consider them better than yourself, so that they might know justice and peace and kindness and self-sacrificing love. Perhaps, then, they'll go out and do the same.



St. Andrew's Backpackers in Lassen Park at Bumpass Hell.

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