

教育專欄 Focus on Education

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獨一無二的學校 The Most Unique School

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注德中學大概是目前最獨特的學校。社 區、課程、師生互動,樣樣都獨特。幾乎不 可能還有另一所學校如同培德。

培德中學位於佛教道場中,因此學 生的生活與學習在一個旣平和又安静的社 區。啊,對了!有一個例外,孔雀刺耳的 叫聲有時會令你覺得很煩,尤其是在考試 的緊要關頭,正在努力找出氨的外殼有幾 個電子的時候。

課程範圍從打坐(一段能彌補睡眠的好時間)到正常課程,例如數學、科學、歷史 等等,每班平均只有八位學生,所以老師們 可以多用些時間來幫助同學把所學的概念加 深。小班的優點就是老師知道每位學生的程 度,因此能給予適度的課外輔導。

培德中學,與眾不同,是在於教導學生 怎樣做人,做好公民,做有德者,老師以身 作則示範並指正學生過錯。更特別者,還有 個有機農場提供給少年犯規者,透過勞動服 務的體驗,使學生有自我反省的空間。

培德中學教導學生團隊合作與自我努力的重要性。譬如在一個課外活動中,舞 龍要能成功地表演,不能缺少通力合作與 各自的努力。如果每個人都各行其事,不 知如何合作,整個表演就會亂成一團。即 使打籃球也需要團隊合作與默契,球員之 間才能玩出各式各樣的花樣,連最基本的 傳好球也是如此。

育良與培德中學不但要追求學術上的 卓越,同時也要培養學生良好的品德。如同 教世界宗教老師所說的:「你們將來要做社 會的棟樑」。 Developing Virtue School (DVS) is probably the most unique school that ever existed. It is unique in many ways - the community, classes, students, and teachers – there's probably no other school like Developing Virtue.

DVS is located in the heart of a monastic community so students live and study in a peaceful and quiet community ...umm except for the cacophony of screeches from the peacocks that tend to be extremely annoying especially when you are trying to figure out how many electrons are in the outer shell of helium on a test.

The classes range from meditation (a fine time to catch up on sleep!) to regular classes like math, science, history, etc. The average class size is about eight, I think, so teachers can help those who need more time to understand certain concepts. The advantage of having a small class is that the teacher knows each student's level so extra tutoring is available.

The one thing that separates this school from others is that it teaches the students how to be a person, a good citizen, a person with moral values. The teachers show the students how to be a person of character by being examples themselves and correcting our mistakes. Then again, there's the "Organic Farm" for "juvenile delinquents" (read more about it in the first issue of DVBS Times).

DVS teaches students that communication and effort is also important. In one of the extracurricular activities, dragon dance, teamwork and communication is essential to be able to pull of certain stunts. If everyone does his own thing and doesn't know how to coordinate his moves with everyone else, then the whole team would just trip over each other and it'd be a complete fiasco. Or in basketball, in order to run certain plays or even to swing the ball smoothly within the team, there needs to be teamwork and communication among the players.

DVS not only wants students to strive for academic excellence but to also build good character and become, as my former junior high World Religions teacher puts it, "the pillars of society."