

## **Kingdom Academy offers a unique learning environment that surpasses the status quo**

**BY BILL KRESS**

Seldom do educational institutions offer practical provisions that are necessary in adulthood. When children grow into adults, and look back at their 12 years of education, they often realize they did not have an early education in finances. After all, the world of finances and how to maneuver income usually is far from the minds of most children – but not at Kingdom Academy.

Founded in 2005, Kingdom Academy presents a new prospect for parents looking to enroll their kids in preschool. The Academy has grown in faculty and students; the vision they had when they began is now externalized into a sophisticated preschool-to-middle school learning institution. Now bearing the makings of the next Phillips Exeter Academy, Kingdom Academy provides a learning environment that surpasses the status quo. At Kingdom Academy, financial literacy is a staple in the curriculum for every grade level.

Children are assigned business-oriented projects throughout the school year. They must establish a budget for their project, create a marketing plan, account for liabilities and assets, survey their target audience, and create a business from pen and paper.

This is the substance of horrors for many grown-up entrepreneurs who often struggle with the stress of entering an industry. The reason why it is stressful is a glaringly simple one: They did not have prior business experience.

Kingdom Academy boasts a solution to the problem of financial illiteracy: They teach kids at a young age how to manage their money and investments, while teaching the virtues of holding true to your dreams and ideals.

The Academy is a family-oriented Christian school with an open-door policy for parents; with over 340 families to serve, maintaining a good relationship with parents is a key value shared by the faculty at Kingdom Academy.

Principal Elena Navarro attests to this essential norm in Kingdom Academy's culture and greatly contributes to the growing familiarity between staff and parents. She comments, "We have parents that drive up to 45 minutes to bring their children to our school. We respect this time by ensuring that their voice is heard."

One voice heard among the multitude is that of a mother, Barbara Paez. Mrs. Paez takes pride in her involvement in her daughter's education. Georgina Paez, a multi-talented youth, takes advantage of the opportunities Kingdom Academy presents to her, and is constantly involved in the arts within her school.

In addition to her success in arts and entertainment, Georgina was recently inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society. In that same ceremony, she was also voted into the position "Activities

Chairman.”

Asked how she juggles all of her extracurricular activities and school work, all she has to say is, “I just love being involved -- and to stay involved I have to do well during school and after.”

Since Georgina started at the Academy, she starred in every musical, performing lead roles gracefully, but her passion truly lies in science. Her inner Einstein is giddily excited for the new science room at the Academy’s new building: “I love watching chemicals react and explode!”

Apart from her scientific aspirations, for this year’s entrepreneurial project she created a company named “Pieces of Joy.” For her company, which sold sweets, she created a budget, commercial jingle, and professional business cards.

Some might say she has all the makings of a contemporary da Vinci. That’s because among all of her achievements, she also was recently invited to partake in a leadership workshop at Harvard University as a result of her impressive display of leadership skills. Kingdom Academy will now be represented in an Ivy League school -- a privilege only granted to the best of the best.

Kingdom Academy’s middle school is relocating in November. They are expanding their learning facilities in this new building and will bring new programs for students to expand their minds. The Academy will now have a blended learning environment, taking advantage of the potential demonstrated by computer technology. Every classroom will have laptops that will be utilized for online testing and project development. The new building features a myriad of new rooms: science labs, art rooms, drama rooms, and music rooms.

Kingdom Academy expands the horizons of all of its students. Providing an enriching education is essential for every child, and at Kingdom Academy that is what every child will receive. As the school day ends, tomorrow is anticipated by every student as a brighter day.

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