



# The Record

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## Classical Education in Schools?

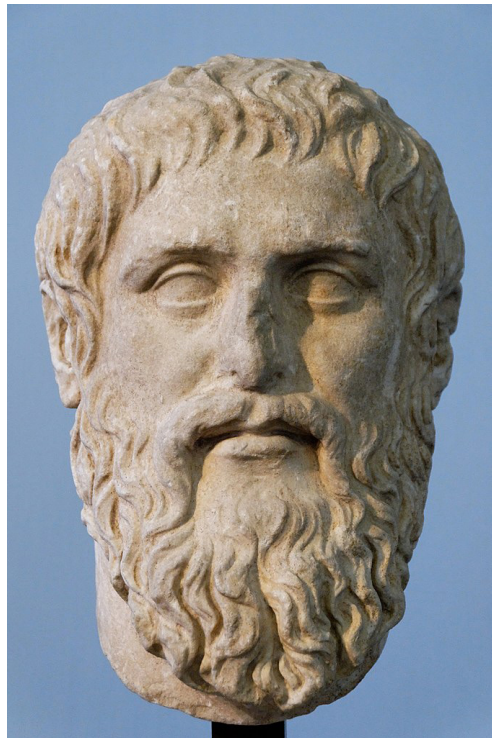
By Dr. Jim Haas

A movement is afoot to return a classical curricula to U.S. schools. With fifty years as a teacher and administrator, I'm for it—with some reservations.

Classical education is built around the liberal arts—language and literature, natural sciences, formal sciences (logic, math, statistics), history, social sciences (civics, economics, psychology, human geography, sociology), and fine arts. They're called liberal arts because they liberate students (Latin *liberalis*—"worthy of a free person"—and *ars*—"structured practice"). In democracies, that freedom is the foundation of citizenship.

Vartan Gregorian, esteemed late president of the philanthropic Carnegie Corporation, called liberal education the "soul of democracy" because it prepares students to "appreciate the differences between earning a living and actually living; to cultivate more than a passing familiarity with ethics, history, science, and culture; and to perceive the tragic chasm between the world as it is and the world as it could and ought to be."

Classical education typically begins in the early grades, teaching reading through phonics and valuing memorization of multiplication tables, poetry, and the like. A century ago, most Americans learned in these ways, but then, so-called "progressive education" swept the land replacing phonics with learning to read (or not) by context and claiming memorization was mere drill. Too, industrialization needed trained workers, so basic skills and learning for earning replaced rigorous liberal arts and sciences except for the minority of college-bound.



By high school, classical education involves reading and discussing what some of history's most influential thinkers had to say about truth, beauty, virtue, and citizenship: How can we find what is true? How do we define what is beautiful? How can we be a good person? How best to govern ourselves? Plato (pictured) favored philosopher-kings; 22 centuries later, America's founders opted for democracy. Students who read and discuss Plato, Jefferson, and Madison (and others between) will have a deeper understanding of the meaning of citizenship.

Classical education is reviving most notably in charter schools with religious affiliations attracted by the long influence of Christianity on literature and the arts. Secular investors are attracted by their potential as models of excellence

for public schools. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies have invested millions in classical schools. Schools in most European countries and many exclusive private schools in America have never lost their focus on the classics.

A weakness of traditional classical education is the narrow focus on European civilization brought to the Americas through conquest and immigration. We've been taught that our cultural heritage is from Plato, the Caesars, popes, Luther, Shakespeare, Newton, Beethoven—a long list of dead white men who shaped our world.

And they did, but ours is only part of the world, and as our population becomes more diverse, it's time to make the classic contributions of other cultures part of ours. Searching for truths? Read Confucius. Beauty? Examine India's Taj Mahal. Innovations in the sciences? Moslems invented the hospital with separate wards for different ailments and gave us algebra and chemistry terms such as alcohol. Modern music? The roots of jazz and rock were in the many empires of Sub-Saharan Africa. Great literature? A Japanese woman wrote the world's first novel a thousand years ago.

Another classical weakness is the near absence of non-males in the heritage of many cultures, an effect of the traditional view that woman's role is in the home and not as leaders or agents of change. That is changing, and a classical curricula needs to reflect that.

Taught well, the liberal arts favor no ethnicity or ideology or faith. They liberate students to choose from all that civilization has to offer. *That* is freedom.



By Sharon Hoover

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

man, Johnson County Extension Master Gardener. In the ground, raised beds, containers, trellises, and perennials are all ways to fill a pantry. Learn the ins and outs of what to grow, growing requiring requirements and pests of our common vegetables. Like raising children, there's usually more than one way that works. Pre-registration is not needed. Fee: \$10 payable at the door (cash or check).

Are you or a family member living with a chronic condition? Beginning on April 2nd and each Tuesday thereafter through May

7<sup>th</sup>, KU will be presenting different ways to take care of your health. Each week will cover a different topic. Classes will be on Zoom from 1:00pm -3:30 pm. Free. Register with Matt at [mhandler@kumc.edu](mailto:mhandler@kumc.edu).

You don't hear much about the Land Bank. My understanding is that there are almost 4300 parcels in Wyandotte County. The U G wants to update the Land Bank policy and is proposing yard extensions for neighboring properties for residents and businesses to incorporate use of land bank properties for gardens and urban farms. The Neighborhood &

Community Standing Committee is inviting interested people to share their thoughts at their next meeting on April 1 at 5:00 pm.

Join in the fun at the WYCO Ethnic Festival at Pierson Park Community Center in Pierson Park on April 6 from 10am-6pm. Open to the public. Free admission / parking Great ethnic foods, music, and culture booths. For more information contact Curtis Smith, [cvsmith6405@gmail.com](mailto:cvsmith6405@gmail.com). Website: <https://cvsmith6405.wixsite.com/Wyandotte>.

Do have an old piece of furniture, an appliance or a TV that doesn't work anymore? The U G is holding the city wide 2024 Dumpster Days at the old Indian Springs site on April 5 and 6<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12pm. They accept furniture, some electronics, appliances, and mattresses at no charge. Recycling CRT TV's & CRT screens cost \$40 and LCD/ Flat Screens cost \$20.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you.

It looks like we are in for a few more hard freezes before the middle of April when we should have our last hard freeze. If you have never planted seeds or vegetables or wanted to, you have an opportunity to learn how to do so. The WYCO K-State Extension & Research office is offering the program "From Seeds to Table: Growing Your Own Food" on Thursday, April 4 at 11:30 in The Sunflower Room, 1208 N. 79<sup>th</sup> St. Presented by Nancy Chap-

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## How To Spot An Imposter Social Media Account

Want to learn how to spot fake Social Security social media accounts? The tips below will help you protect yourself and your family.

How fraudsters create imposter accounts

Fraudsters create imposter social media pages and accounts using Social Security-related images and vocabulary, making them appear as if they're associated with or endorsed by us. They also create imposter social media pages of Social Security and OIG officials, such as the Commissioner or the Inspector General.

Protect your personally identifiable information

We will never ask for sensitive information through social media

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# SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

## This Week at the Capitol

It was a busy week at the Capitol, as we debated the budget and a second flat tax proposal. Thursday, March 28, is the deadline for non-exempt bills to be passed out of their second chamber. As such, there should be an uptick in work on the Senate floor next week. You can watch live on the Kansas Legislature Youtube Channel.

Medicaid Expansion gets its first hearing in four years!

Governor Kelly's 2024 Medicaid Expansion bill will have public hearings in both the Senate and House! This is big news: this is the first time there's been a hearing on Medicaid Expansion in four years.

Republican leadership is feeling the pressure. We need your help to keep up the momentum! You can email your representative directly and ask them to support Medicaid Expansion.

## Flat Tax Passes...Again

Late Thursday night, Republican leadership's latest flat tax bill passed the Senate by a vote of 29 to 11. I voted NO.

The flat tax would benefit the wealthy at the expense of working Kansans. That's why I supported a compromise tax plan introduced by Senate Minority Leader Dinah Sykes that included pieces Senators on both sides of the aisle already agree on and have voted in support of.

The amendment Senator Sykes introduced received bipartisan support and included:

- \* Decrease each income tax bracket by 01.%
- \* Standard Deduction increase to \$10k/\$7.5k/\$5k
- \* Full Social Security income tax exemption
- \* Increase Child & Dependent Care Tax credit to 100%
- \* Bank Privilege income tax rate reduction (to match with APEX)
- \* 20 Mill property tax exemption to \$100,000

\* Food sales tax reduction to 0%, effective July 1, 2024

At a cost of approximately \$650 million-per-year when fully phased in, the projections from the state's non-partisan budget experts show that by 2029, Kansas would be taking in hundreds of millions of dollars less than it would need to fund our schools, maintain our roads, and provide other critical services. The flat tax failed last year and once already this year for one reason: Kansans and members of this body do not support reckless tax experiments that hurt our schools, roads, and economy.

I hope that once the Governor vetoes a flat tax for the second time this session, Republican leadership will take irresponsible flat tax proposals off the table and join me in having

honest conversations about passing tax cuts that we can afford that will support working families.

## Debate on the Budget

The budget was the central focus of debate on Wednesday. The \$25.1 billion budget for the upcoming fiscal year allocates more money to fight the fentanyl crisis, builds a new cancer research center, funds passenger rail service and airports, and includes funding for the World Cup in Kansas City.

Below are several amendments I supported to the budget which were defeated by the Republican majority:

\* Voucher Accountability. Senator Cindy Holscher offered an amendment to increase transparency measures for non-public schools receiving vouchers. Any schools

receiving public dollars should be accountable to the taxpayers who fund them.

\* Childcare Accelerator Grants. I offered an amendment to allocate \$15 million for funding Childcare Accelerator Grants. This investment would help more Kansas families who need access to child care to support their child's development, enter the workforce, and contribute to our economy.

\* Medicaid Expansion. Senator Dinah Sykes pointed out an important part of the budget that was missing: Medicaid Expansion. By removing Medicaid expansion from the budget and instead increasing rates for the current population, the state is paying \$151 million more in FY 25, but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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# Petty

...from page 3

providers are getting \$458 million less. Medicaid expansion is one of those instances where doing what is right from a moral point of view also saves money.

\* Special Education Funding.

Senator John Doll introduced an amendment to increase funding for special education. The last time the Legislature fulfilled its statutory obligation to fully fund special education was 2011. This investment would help ALL our students. Right now, because schools don't have sufficient special education funds, they end up diverting resources from other areas.

LEGAL PUBLICATION

LEGAL PUBLICATION

## Request for Proposal Advertisement

Turner Unified School District No. 202 is seeking Bid Proposals for the replacement of the lockers at the Turner Aquatic Center with Plastic Lockers.

Documents pertaining to this Request for Proposal will be provided to any qualified contractor free of charge by email request sent to [crockettc@turnerusd202.org](mailto:crockettc@turnerusd202.org)

Turner USD 202 Facility Supervisor, Chris Crockett will host the blind bid opening, April 10, 2024, at 10:00 am. The location of the bid opening will be the Facility and Grounds Building located at 5800 Metropolitan, Kansas City, KS 66106. Turner USD 202 will announce the vendor that is awarded the bid Wednesday April 17, 2024.

(First published 3-28-24)  
2t-The Record-4-4-24

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS: REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR TRC CARPET PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Executive Director of Turner Recreation Commission, Kansas City, Kansas until 1 pm on April 5 at Turner Recreation Commission Center, 831 S. 55th St. Kansas City, Kansas 66106, for a Carpet Project.

Bids shall be identified on the exterior of the sealed envelope with all the information required by law, including the name of the project and the bidder's name and address. No bids will be received or accepted after the above specified time for the opening of bids. Bids submitted after the designated hour will be deemed invalid and returned unopened to the bidder.

The Turner Recreation Commission reserves the right to waive any irregularities or reject any or all bids, as well as the right to place orders based on the Commission's needs and budget constraints; therefore, the Commission may not order every item listed in the bid document. Copies of the bid document may be obtained at Turner Recreation Commission Center located at 831 S. 55th St., Kansas City, KS 66106. The Turner Recreation Commission complies with all statutes and regulations as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and as amended, and the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (P.I.100.259).

TURNER RECREATION COMMISSION/rs

Robbie Spencer  
Executive Director  
Turner Recreation Commission  
913-287-2111  
831 South 55th St.  
Kansas City, Kansas 66106

(First published 3-28-24)  
1t-The Record-3-28-24

There are several other issues with the budget in its current form. For example, it withholds \$35.7 million from state universities unless the schools can show they haven't participated in diversity, equity, and inclusion practices. The budget also includes about \$16 million to send National Guard troops to the Texas border. Instead of playing politics with the border crisis, we could be using this funding to make child care more affordable for working families or increase support for special education.

### Ban on Gender Affirming Care

Senate Republicans planned to debate a bill to ban gender-affirming healthcare for transgender youth, but suddenly moved it to a conference committee at the last minute. I do not support this legislation.

Everyone should have the right to access the healthcare they need to survive and thrive without government interference. Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, safe, effective, and the only evidence-based care for treating trans youth. It can literally save lives. This legislation is opposed by every major medical organization because it would prevent Kansans from having access to the healthcare they need to survive and thrive.

While it's good that the bill wasn't passed in the Senate this week, the fight isn't over. The bill stalled so it

could be adjusted to address narrow concerns, but this ban still places political gain at the expense of our most vulnerable children.

### Anti-Abortion Crisis Centers

This week Senate Republicans also passed Senate Bill 498, which establishes a tax credit for contributions to anti-abortion crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) and provides a sales tax exemption for CPCs. These centers don't provide a full range of health care, and their goal is to spread misinformation and propaganda.

This bill purports to provide support for pregnant Kansans. In reality, SB 498 encourages individuals and businesses to donate to CPCs and divert funds away from legitimate comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care. Kansas women and Kansas taxpayers deserve investment in real health care instead of these centers.

Senator Dinah Sykes offered an amendment to this bill to create a state child tax credit. Under this amendment, families making \$25,000 or less annually would receive a \$600 refundable credit per qualifying child, and the credit amount would decrease as adjusted gross income increases. This amendment would have helped to ensure that all Kansas children have their basic needs met, but it was defeated by the Republican majority.

## Social Security

...from page 2

as these channels are not secure. Sometimes, users are asked to enter their financial information, Social Security number (SSN), or other sensitive information. This is a red flag, and often an indication of a fraudulent account.

How to spot a fake social media account

Identifying an imposter account may seem difficult at first, but there are a few things you can look for right away. You will want to focus on the following:

- How many people follow the imposter page. In most cases, fake pages have a very low number of

followers as compared to Social Security's official page.

- Improper punctuation.
- Links to pages not on SSA.gov.
- Advertisements for forms or other Social Security documents for a price.
- Incorrect social media handles.

To view the list of our official social media channels, we encourage you to visit [www.ssa.gov/socialmedia](http://www.ssa.gov/socialmedia).

Please report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the OIG's website at [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report). You can find more information about scams on our Protect Yourself from Scams webpage at [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam).

Please share this information with your friends, family, and colleagues.

# Governor Kelly Announces More than \$76M Investment by Marvin, Creating 600 Jobs in Kansas City, Kansas

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly announced that Marvin, a premium manufacturer of windows and doors, has selected Kansas City, Kansas, as the future home of its latest manufacturing facility. Marvin is investing \$76.5 million to build a 400,000-square-foot facility in the Scannell 435 Logistics Center.

Upon completion in 2025, Marvin anticipates employing approximately 100 team members in full-time positions across its manufacturing, fabrication, and assembly divisions to produce the company’s industry-leading fiberglass window and door solutions. With progressive annual growth, Marvin expects to employ a 600-person workforce in Kansas City by 2028.

“Marvin’s investment emphasizes that my administration’s approach to attracting business into our state is working,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “We are delivering on our commitment to making Kansas the best place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Marvin conducted extensive research across multiple states before selecting Kansas City, Kansas, for this development. A strong workforce, state and local commitment to education, a collaborative approach to economic development, and compatibility all contributed to Marvin’s final selection.

“Marvin has been on a significant growth trajectory over the past six years,” Marvin CEO and Chair of the Board Paul Marvin said. “Investing in additional facilities not only is strategic for continued growth but also will help meet current and anticipated short-term demand in the marketplace.”

With its expansion to Kansas City, Marvin will operate in 17 cities across North America, including its two-million-square-foot campus in the company’s founding headquarters of Warroad, Minnesota.

“Kansas fought hard to win Marvin’s new production facility because we value their reputation for building industry-leading

products and treating their workers well, and because they align with Kansas’ strengths in advanced manufacturing and distribution,” Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce David Toland said. “We will continue pursuing companies such as Marvin that are finding success in the target sectors outlined in our state’s economic development strategic plan – the Kansas Framework for Growth.”

Since its inception in 1912, Marvin has been family-owned and

led. Today, seven fourth-generation Marvin family members serve in full-time roles at the company, stewarding the business with the same founding principles of ingenuity and integrity with which the company was established.

“As our history shows, when Marvin commits to doing business in a community, we consider that a long-term partnership,” CEO Marvin said. “We’ve been warmly welcomed by many in Kansas City and look forward to providing

meaningful career opportunities and engaging in opportunities to give back across Wyandotte County in the years to come.”

“I am excited to have a well-respected and established company such as Marvin choose Kansas to expand their business,” Kansas City, Kansas, Mayor Pro Tem Tom Burroughs said. “Marvin not only will provide quality products for the building industry but quality jobs for Kansas City and Wyandotte County.”

## A.H.S. 2024 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Please RETURN YOUR CHECK and this registration form to:

**AHS 2024 REUNION COMMITTEE**

**P. O. Box 16076**

**Shawnee, KS 66203**

**By May 15, 2024**

**Early registrations are encouraged by March 1, 2024**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Super Senior (please check) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) or Spouse (Maiden Name if AHS)      Class Member Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

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Donations accepted, please specify amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Restrictions (please list if any) \_\_\_\_\_





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**TIME:** 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
MEAL SERVED at 12:00

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**BUFFET:** Fried & Oven Roasted Chicken, Shredded BBQ Brisket, 4 sides, roll, dessert & beverages (iced tea, coffee & water). **(ABSOLUTELY No Food or Beverages can be brought into the Reunion Event!)**

**COST:** **TICKET PRICE: \$40.00 PER PERSON**  
Super Seniors – Ages 89-95 will be our guests at no cost. Please checkmark the Registration Form on page 2 if attending. Super Senior Guests, unless a Super Senior themselves, are required to pay.

**DRESS:** CASUAL (JEANS AND SHORTS ACCEPTABLE)

Due to the large attendance expected, early registrations are encouraged by March 1, 2024. Reservations will be accepted no later than May 15, 2024.  
**NO 'DAY OF' REGISTRATIONS ARE POSSIBLE FOR THIS EVENT.**

**TO REGISTER:** COMPLETE THE FORM ON **PAGE 7** AND MAIL BOTH THE FORM AND CHECK TO THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW. **NO ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS YEAR!**

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