

Reopening of Cubberley High School

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2K9 – 2K10



Cubberley High School, circa 1965

The reopening of Cubberley High using Jean Jacques Rousseau's philosophy and a redesign in architecture will strengthen Palo Alto's community and Education level.

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An old school with a new touch...

Basic Ideas

The plan behind the new Elwood P Cubberley High School all lies in the philosophy and ideas of Jean Jacques Rousseau. The school will have a high number of educated and talented teachers, yet a small number of administration staff. The teachers and students shall collaborate and respect each other, as stated by Rousseau, "Our will is always for our own good, but we do not always see what that is," meaning that the student under the leadership and guidance of the teaching staff can achieve the highest and best results. "However great a man's natural talent may be, the act of writing cannot be learned all at once." Learning must go on step by step, as everyone needs time to learn the material covered in courses and needs time to think about the scientific problems. It certainly stresses wholeness and harmony, and a concern for the person of the learner. It is possible to preserve the "original perfect nature" of the child, "by means of the careful control of his education and environment, based on an analysis of the different physical and psychological stages through which he passed from birth to maturity."

Faculty and Administrative positions

"The training of children is a profession, where we must know how to waste time in order to save it." We will have highly qualified teachers with the highest possible education and a great disposition.

"It is too difficult to think nobly when one thinks only of earning a living." It means that teachers must be well paid.

"Falsehood has an infinity of combinations, but truth has only one mode of being." These types of teachers will have an authority that students will trust them, hence the results of the educational process will be much higher than expected in the state of California.

"Free people, remember this maxim: we may acquire liberty, but it is never recovered if it is once lost." Discipline at Cubberley high will be at a high level, though everyone understands that others have their own rights.

"It is unnatural for a majority to rule, for a majority can seldom be organized and united for specific action, and a minority can." We will have a large teacher staff, yet a small administration staff. According to Rousseau's words, a majority cannot rule. So to constitute this we will have a maximum of three administrative staff members in our school, such as one principal, one vice principal and one secretary. We do not need helpers of any kind, so we will also not have any teacher assistants as our teachers are already well-skilled and talented.

"People who know little are usually great talkers, while men who know much say little" and "those that are most slow in making a promise are the most faithful in the performance of it." It means that we shall have the least amount of paper flow from the administration and teachers.

Curriculum and Graduation Requirements

Our philosophy is that the curriculum and the graduation requirements are connected and are therefore impossible to separate, meaning there are ideas for both parts. Let's read what Rousseau said about education and interpret what he said:

- "Base souls have no faith in great individuals." This is the diversity and necessity in gaining knowledge in many different fields.
- Textbooks shall be in electronic form for ergonomic reasons and shall be straight-forward for comprehensive reasons. By straight-forward, we mean that textbooks shouldn't have unnecessary talking *about* the subject, but rather talking *on* the subject. "I hate books; they only teach us to talk about things we know nothing about." We should understand this as a necessity to integrate education with the real world and real life.
- Because we will have talented and well-educated teachers (and also well-paid) who don't have to do a lot of paperwork, it will be possible to organize the process of education efficiently, thus everyone will learn math at least up to the calculus level, learn the native (English) and one or two foreign languages with good grammar and a big vocabulary and the strong ability to critically think and write at a high academic level.
- Every student shall know world history and geography at a decent level.
- "We should not teach the children the sciences; but give them a taste for them," meaning we will *encourage* the students to learn the material as opposed to just giving them some text to read and memorize. Like in our improved biology, physics and chemistry classes, we will have the students study all three subjects for all four years of high school, step-by-step with a less amount of time spent per week which will allow the possibility for more time to think on different scientific problems and make connections between different branches of science and other subjects. Imagination and creativity is also implemented into our courses all the time.
- Physical education is a requirement. "A feeble body weakens the mind."
- "The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless." Art for our school is a must for everyone. Without art, our world would be dull. "Absolute silence leads to sadness. It is the image of death." We will have a large selection of artistic courses, such as performing arts and visual arts. Rousseau also had a passion for music and literature, as he wrote a play and two operas and it is naturally to include art and culture in our school.

Rules

"Force doesn't constitute right... obedience is due only to legitimate powers."

All school policies will be reasonable and logical. "Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet," meaning that the student and teacher must cooperate and respect each other in order to produce the best possible results for the entire school community. "Make the citizens good by training and everything else will follow." Teachers will be great citizens and they shall pass to the students their ideas of great importance of education and citizenship for the state and their entire human community.

Sports

Physical education is a requirement. "A feeble body weakens the mind."

We have a HUGE variety of sports students can do and play at Ellwood Cubberley High. These include, yet not limited to:

- Soccer
- American Football
- Rugby
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Water Polo
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Baseball
- Track and Field
- Wrestling
- Gymnastics
- Dance

Cheer

"Take the course opposite to custom and you will almost always do well."

It means to try to learn the unknown, try to invent, be interested in everything and don't be afraid of something new to try out.

Motto

"The person who has lived the most is not the one with the most years but the one with the richest experiences"

Colours

"Nature never deceives us; it is we who deceive ourselves."

The colours for the Cubberley High School are **blue** and **green**. Rousseau made the first comprehensive attempt to describe a system of education according to what he saw as "nature." Émile, the character of the Rousseau book Émile was raised in the countryside which Rousseau considered the most healthy environment for growing up. Blue is the colour of the ocean and the sky, while green is the colour of the forest and grass. These colours are the colours of the healthiest environment in Rousseau's opinion.

Works Cited

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