

An Introduction to Intellectual Virtues

The Cambridge School



The What

What are intellectual virtues?

“Intellectual virtues are the character traits of a good thinker or learner.”¹

“Intellectual character is the part of your character—your dispositions to act, think, and feel—that pertains to thinking and learning.”

The intellectual virtues are distinct from the moral and civic virtues.

The Three Dimensions of an Intellectual Virtue

1) Skill

Do you have the appropriate tools and strategies to employ intellectual virtues?

2) Motivation

Do you have the right motivation of using it to deepen your knowledge of something or understand truth more fully?

3) Judgement

Do you have the appropriate and necessary sensitivities to recognize the occasions that call for intellectual virtue?



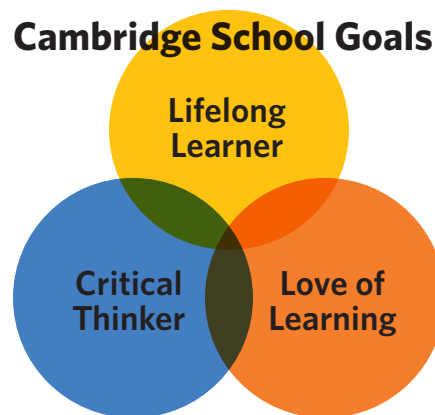
¹ Baehr, Jason. *Cultivating Good Minds: A Philosophical and Practical Guide to Educating for Intellectual Virtues*. Jason Baehr, 2015.

The Why

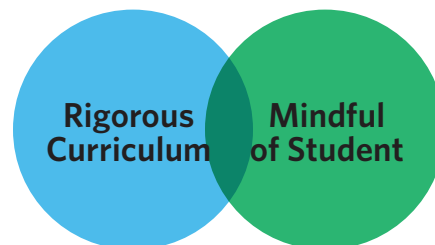
Why educate for intellectual virtues?

Intellectual virtues are considered “thick concepts” that provide a way of fleshing out educational goals at The Cambridge School.

Cambridge School Goals



The cultivation of intellectual virtues is a concrete way to build habits of mind that work toward accomplishing these goals in our students.



The intellectual virtue approach “is necessarily rigorous...due largely to the fact that intellectual virtues themselves aim at a deep understanding, while caring for the character of the student.”