Liberty University

From the SelectedWorks of Steven McDonald

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Vision: A Preferable Future

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/steven_mcdonald/3/
VISION

A Preferable Future
Vision Some Questions

- What is a preferable future?
- What does a vision look like?
- How can I develop a vision?
What Is a Preferable Future?

- Seeing the future
- Getting to the future
- Arriving at the preferable future
Vision in the Bible

- After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”
  
  **Genesis 15:1 NKJV**

- The “word” of God indicates God’s thoughts and will.
Habakkuk 2:2-3

Then the Lord answered me and said:

“Write the vision

And make it plain on tablets,

That he may run who reads it.

For the vision is yet for an appointed time;
WHY GO TO SCHOOL?

If the purpose of our schools is to prepare citizens to keep the U.S. economy going, then the prevailing curricula and instructional methods are probably adequate. If, however, we want to help students become thoughtful, caring citizens who might be creative enough to figure out how to change the status quo rather than maintain it, we need to rethink schooling entirely. Mr. Wolk outlines what he considers to be the essential content for a new curriculum.

BY STEVEN WOLK

LAST YEAR my son homework in second grade was 409 worksheets. The year before, in first grade, the homework was also 409 worksheets. Each day he brought home two worksheets, one for math and one for spelling. That was two worksheets a day, five days a week, 40 weeks a year.

The math was little more than addition or subtraction problems. The other worksheets were more insidious. His mom had 50 spelling words each week. On some days his worksheets required him to answer with the spelling words. On other days STEVEN WOLK is an associate professor in The Learning Sciences Department at Northwestern University (Chicago campus) www.stevenwolk.com
Vision In Education

The Skill Set

Lawrence Hardy

What do graduates need to be successful in the 21st century?

The reports, studies, and initiatives keep coming, calling for improvements in the skills of U.S. high school graduates and the increasing competition they face in a transforming global economy. We have The Dropout Crisis, America's Productive Workforce, Enough at Risk, and most frightening of all, The Very Afraid.

All right, we made up that last one. There is no report called The Very Afraid. But there is a Vision, at risk and in perpetuity, of a nation at risk and in perpetuity, if not sooner, than the nation's very public schools—if threatened any longer by a foreign power—would consider an act of war. We have operated at arm's length between code yellow and orange with respect to our ongoing crisis in the public schools.

Is it the world truly different now, in the 21st century? And have U.S. students kept up? The story of reports makes a good case that it is, and they haven’t. Consider:

- “Employing demographic projections combined with current skills data, we estimate that by 2030 the average levels of literacy and numeracy in the working-age population will have decreased by about 5 percent,” over the same period, nearly half the projected job growth will be concentrated in occupations associated with higher education and skill levels”—American’s Productive Workforce: Changing Our Nation’s Future, a Rotary report of the Educational Testing Service (ETS).
- “Thirty years ago, the United States could lay claim to having 10 percent of the world’s population of college graduates. Today that proportion has fallen to 4 percent and is continuing to fall”—Enough at Risk or Rough Times, the 2007 report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce.

The decade in literacy and numeracy projected by ETS will be defined by increasing numbers of illiterate (empirically defined) immigrants and their children. But the graduation rates among current students also is disturbingly low, being dropped to about 70 percent after peaking at 75 percent in 1980. Numerous groups—including the National Governors Association, which issued a report called The Great Divide—say the dropout rate threatens the nation’s economic security.

The emergence of globalization.

But what about our high school graduates? Several reports say they’re not doing well enough either. For example, an ACT report on the Class of 2006 found that just 42 percent

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Developing Your Vision

- Following through
- Gaining resources
- Involving God
Following through with your vision

- Understand the ideas involved
- Consider further education
- Commit it to writing
- Set specific goals with specific deadlines
- Share your vision
Gaining resources

- First, look within
  - Local school
  - Local district

- Second, look without
  - Local community groups
  - State or regional sources
More Resources

- Federal or nonprofit sources
  - Learn how to write grants
  - Present your vision clearly
  - Be aware of any "strings"
Including God in your vision

- Pray
- Seek out Christian counselors
- Make sure your vision promotes His purposes
Destination-Your Vision

- **Understand:**
  - What it takes to fulfill a vision
- **Believe:**
  - That you can have and inspire vision
- **Act:**
  - Begin to develop your vision for education