

Palmarium

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.



Reflections on the Idea of Civility

••••• Assorted Quotes



Benjamin Franklin
(1706-1790)

the Jean Antoine Houdon sculpture of Franklin was created in 1778 and the image used is from The Met in New York City where the bust is stored/maintained



Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few; friend to one; enemy to none.
Benjamin Franklin

Civility does not . . . mean the mere outward gentleness of speech cultivated for the occasion, but an inborn gentleness and desire to do the opponent good.
Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)

Civility costs nothing, and buys everything.
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1689-1762)

Teaching civility is an obligation of the family. *Stephen Carter (1954-)*

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Civility is the natural state for people who know how limited their own individual powers are and know, too, that they need the conversation. *David Brooks (1961-)*

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- Whole Person Focused
 - Relationship Based
 - Classically Oriented
 - Idea Centered



At a Crossroads: Civility – Part 1

by Wesley Jolly, Director of Academic Services

Civility. The word *civility* derives from the Latin word *civilis* meaning “relating to citizens.” As the origin of our modern day word *civility* progressed from the Old French *civilite* to what we use today, the definition, in essence, developed into the *state of being a citizen - or good citizenship, orderly behavior.* In the mid-16th century the idea of *politeness* became associated with the meaning (from “Civility – Etymology” in *Wikipedia* and *Online Etymology Dictionary*). To start off the 2016-2017 school year, a great reference point for what it is that we strive to do at TCA can be traced back to our **Core Values** document and the Titan’s Creed.

Our mission statement begins: “The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop *exemplary citizens* . . .” The Titan’s Creed in the second line notes “Titans celebrate virtue in scholarship, relationship, and *citizenship.*” The word *civility* is directly connected to the word *citizenship* as outlined in our **Core Values** and **Creed**. For the past two years the PALMARIUM has focused each month on one of the *Character Strengths and Virtues* as outlined in Christopher Peterson’s and Martin Seligman’s book. So far, we have covered 17 of the 24 character strengths strengths and virtues discussed in their work. In the eight volumes of the

PALMARIUM this year the goal is to cover six more, but first we are going to spend a little time engaging with the idea of *civility*. Why, you may ask? Because the term *civility* is directly related to citizenry and citizenship and understanding this term can provide a supporting filter or framework for so many of the traits we continue to discuss with students and staff – *perspective, open-mindedness, forgiveness, kindness, gratitude, self-regulation, social intelligence* and the list goes on and on.



When examining the multitude of definitions of *civility* in various dictionaries and references – you may come across some of the following: *courteous behavior, politeness, the act of showing regard for others, courtesy, tact, graciousness, well-mannered behavior towards others, a*

courteous act or utterance, the quality of being polite; polite, reasonable, and respectful behavior. If I were to ask you the question – where do we fall on the spectrum of civility in our country today on a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being completely lacking and 10 being a primary societal focus, what would be your response? Think of a number – then read on.

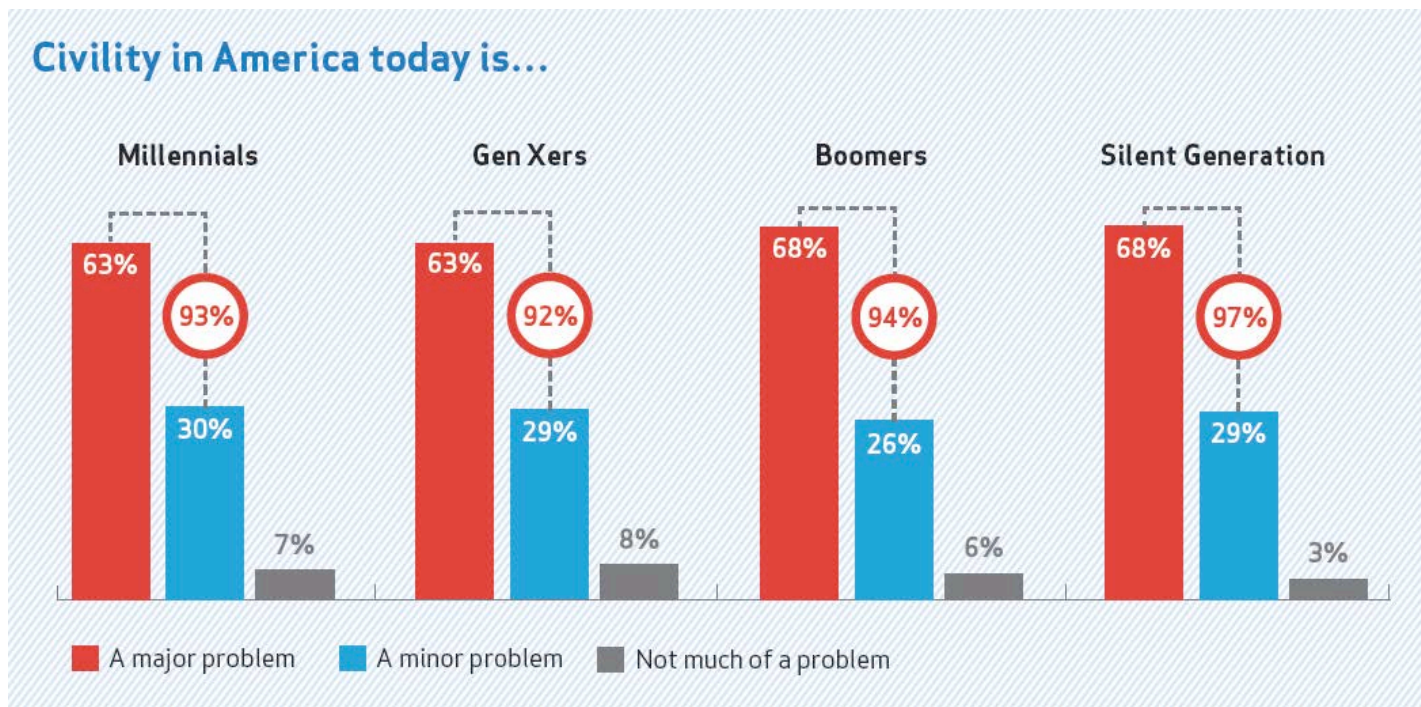
If I told you that most Americans would score us on the lower end of the scale would you be surprised? I must say, I was not. As part

At a Crossroads: Civility – Part 1 (continued)

of my research on the topic of *civility* I came across some interesting research conducted by Weber Shandwick beginning in 2010. Several comparative studies on *Civility in America* have been published, along with numerous press releases on the topic, as a collaborative effort by Weber Shandwick, in cooperation with Powell Tate and KRC Research. I reached out to Weber Shandwick about using their research and graphics in framing this two-month *civility* effort in the PALMARIUM and was graciously granted the ability to do so [[see link to Civility in America reports here](#)].

In a July 2016 press release, related to the sixth installment of *Civility in America*, “nearly all Americans, 95 percent, say civility is a problem, with three-quarters (74 percent) saying civility has declined in the past few years. 70 percent also say that incivility in this country has risen to ‘crisis’ levels, up from 65 percent in 2014.” The release goes on to say “77 percent say the U.S. is losing stature as a civil nation.”

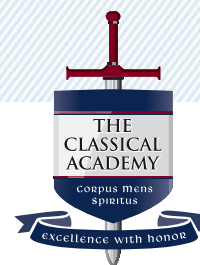
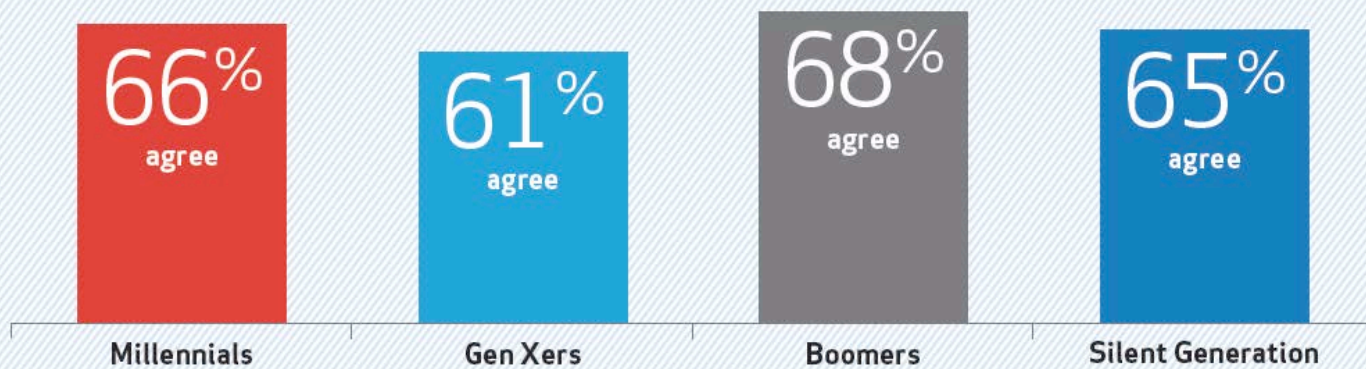
Do we have a civility deficit in America? Have we reached crisis levels? Are views on civility different across generational lines? Examine the following graphics.



[for birth year comparisons: **Millennials** (early 1980s to early 2000s); **GenXers** (mid 1960s to early 1980s); **Boomers** (mid 1940s to mid 1960s) **Silent Generation** (mid 1920s to early 1940s)

At a Crossroads: Civility – Part 1 (continued)

“Incivility in America has risen to crisis levels.” (% completely/mostly agree)

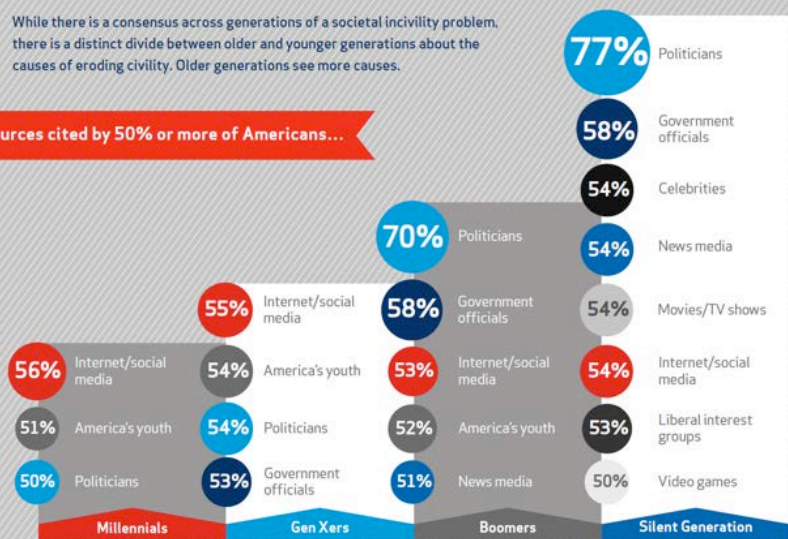


What has taken us down this path?

2. There is a generational divide over the drivers of incivility

While there is a consensus across generations of a societal incivility problem, there is a distinct divide between older and younger generations about the causes of eroding civility. Older generations see more causes.

Sources cited by 50% or more of Americans...



“Millennials and GenXers cite the top civility killer as the Internet and social media, perhaps not surprisingly since these generations came of age during the formative years of online communications.

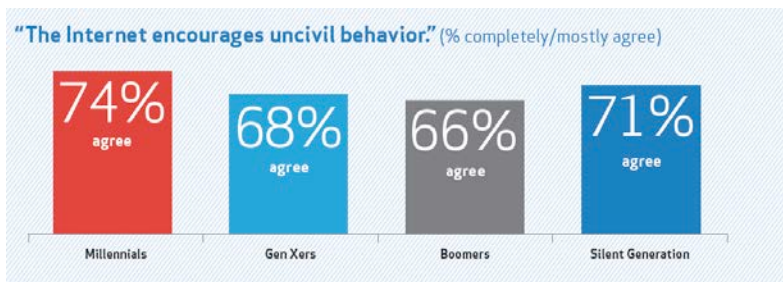
Boomers and the Silent Generation almost emphatically blame politicians.

The Silent Generation spreads the blame across the most sources.”

[The Incivility Blame Game: A Generational Divide taken from page 5 of the Civility in America 2014 report and the Generational Differences infographic]

At a Crossroads: Civility – Part 1 (continued)

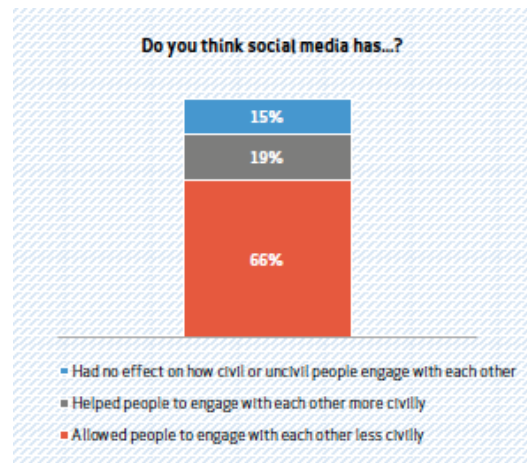
The internet (2014 *Civility* report) and social media (2013 *Civility* report) each have had an impact on civil behavior according to the surveys.



Now, I understand that the information presented in the infographics and quotes above are just one snapshot of a small cross-section of America. But I ask myself, are the results reflective of what I'm seeing and hearing in society today? I would argue that many could support these claims whether coming from a left, right, or middle political viewpoint, divergent ideological stances, or distinctly different guiding philosophical or religious worldviews.

In the *Civility in America 2014* report "only one in eight Americans believe civility will get better over the course of the next few years." Pam Jenkins, President of Powell Tate, notes: "Incivility is turning into a national epidemic. When seven out of ten citizens report that incivility has reached crisis proportions in this country, you know that we need new solutions and greater leadership accountability. We may have reached a tipping point." [*Civility in America 2013* report]

A **tipping point** – a critical juncture portending significant change. Popular writer Malcom Gladwell wrote a national bestseller on the topic back in 2000



titled, *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*. The back cover of his work notes: "The tipping point is that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire. Just a single sick person can start an epidemic of the flu, so too can a small but precisely targeted push cause a fashion trend, the popularity of a new product, or a drop in the crime rate."

I would personally like to thank Michelle Guida from the New York City branch **Weber Shandwick** for granting permission to use their *Civility in America* publications and infographics in this and October's volumes of the PALMARIUM.

At a Crossroads: Civility – Part 1 (continued)

Lack of civility is not exemplary citizenship – a critical component of our mission statement. If we are at a critical juncture in our nation, small efforts in the classroom, at the dinner table, on the sporting field, can make the big difference. We, our community, devoted to something bigger than ourselves – “striving to be our best, do our best, and give our best to the world, in Mind, Body, and Spirit” can make that difference.

When first thinking about the topic of *civility* about seven months ago I did so for two reasons. The first related to a TCA-wide assigned reading for our teaching staff on George Washington. The book *Washington’s Circle: The Creation of the President* was selected to coincide with our upcoming October Staff In-Service on the topic **George Washington: Character and Leadership**. And the second reason was to frame the first

volumes of this fourth year of the PALMARIUM.

I plan for this article to continue into next month’s issue with a bit more focus on George Washington. One could easily argue that Washington molded his life around the *Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and Conversation* first developed in the late 16th century. If this month’s article struck a nerve, sparked a thought, or made you want to comment please send me an e-mail at wjolly@asd20.org

[more on this topic in part 2 on civility next month]



[\[click here for link to Rules of Civility\]](#)



Dear TCA Staff, Parents, and Community,

The Classical Academy (TCA) is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, or any other legally protected class. Respect for the dignity and worth of each individual shall be paramount. Accordingly, we have a “no tolerance” policy with respect to acts of discrimination or harassment. Click [here](#) for policy AC-TCA and forms.

Protecting against and not tolerating discrimination and harassment is consistent with TCA’s Core Values and our Creed, which states that “Titans love, respect, and protect one another. Striving to be our best, do our best, and give our best to the world.” Any student, staff member or parent should report any discrimination or harassment to any TCA principal, counselor, or the following liaisons:

For Students:

Cheryl Birkey
 Compliance and Non-Discrimination Specialist
 975 Stout Road, Room 1114
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921
cbirkey1@asd20.org 719-488-6209

For Staff:

Katryna Lays
 Human Resources Generalist/Employee Liaison
 975 Stout Road, Room 2200
 Colorado Springs, CO 80921
klays@asd20.org 719-488-6232

The Classical Academy is committed to conducting prompt investigations. Any students or staff found to have engaged in any type of discrimination or harassment will be disciplined, and if circumstances warrant, suspension or expulsion of students may result. Let’s work together to prevent all types of discrimination and harassment.

Respectfully,
 Dr. Russ Sojourner
 TCA President

GRANDPARENTS DAY 2016

NOBODY CAN DO FOR LITTLE CHILDREN WHAT GRANDPARENTS DO. GRANDPARENTS SORT OF SPRINKLE STARDUST OVER THE LIVES OF LITTLE CHILDREN. *Alex Haley*

One of the most exciting days of the school year occurs every September at each of our elementary schools. Grandparents have the opportunity to spend time with their grandchildren at school – many come from out of state and some even from out of the country. The gyms were packed at North, East, and Central elementary on September 15, 2016 with over one thousand proud grandparents photographing, videoing, and waving whenever the chance arose at their precious grandchildren. Everything about this day speaks to what TCA is about. Our Core Values stress that “we value the wisdom and life experiences of the senior citizens in our community”. We value relationships and the impact that grandparents have in the lives of their grandchildren. Thank you to all who shared in this day with our staff and students – and much heartfelt appreciation to all those who spent lots of hours planning, organizing, practicing, and fitting all the cars into the parking lots on this great day.



East Elementary



North Elementary





Central
Elementary



East Elementary

grandparents day 

2015-2016 TITAN OF THE YEAR

During the August 11, 2016 Back-to-School staff meeting the annual Titan of the Year award was presented to **Mrs. Lora Hendricks**. Lora has served for 8 years at TCA as a tutor at North Elementary. She is described as someone with a servant's heart, a true encourager, and someone that will do anything for you. She is also the "queen of carpool." No matter the weather outside, she is there to greet all who drive through with a wave and a smile, making the start of the day a positive experience. One mom wrote in nominating her - "Have you ever been encouraged by a bright smile, a warm hug, or a kind word? Have you ever had a friend bear your burden, ease your frustration, celebrate a success, or share in your joy? Then you may have met Lora Hendricks!"

The **Titan of the Year video** shown during our celebration of this honor can be viewed at the TCA website by [clicking here](#). We encourage you to take a few moments to see what this special award is all about and celebrate Lora and all of our amazing staff. If you see Mrs. Hendricks, please congratulate her on this recognition and give her a special wave and smile back when passing her in carpool.



TCA CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The playground at the East Campus was completed and opened in January 2016 and since that time much progress has been made across all campuses. The staff portable for the College Pathways program was finished this past summer (images to right). The construction at Central is progressing well – the renovation was completed over the summer and the new two-story building is scheduled for completion in the spring semester (photos below). Finally, the North Campus multi-sport complex will be finished in early October (below right). Lots of great things are happening at TCA – thanks for all your support.



New Portable at East Campus



Central Campus Renovation and New Construction



North Campus Multi-Sport Complex



U.S. News and Newsweek Rankings



The Classical Academy High School and College Pathways have been nationally recognized in two different 2016 annual top high school rankings. Each year both *Newsweek* and *U.S. News & World Report* publish their school rankings using slightly different measurement criteria. *Newsweek* uses data from about 16,000 schools and *U.S. News & World Report* tallies their results from approximately 21,000 high schools.

Newsweek just ranked TCA’s High School at **#459 nationally** and TCA’s College Pathways at **#496 nationally**. For 2016, ten Colorado schools made the top 500 list and **TCA ranked #9 and #10, respectively, in the state.**

U.S. News & World Report ranked TCA’s High School at **#368 nationally**, the **#93 charter school in the country**, and **#10 high school in Colorado**. Only 3 schools in the state of Colorado made the top 10 list in both the *Newsweek* and *U.S. News* rankings and **TCA High School** was one of those three.

Each ranking system puts **TCA in the top 2-3% of high schools nationally**. Congratulations to all of our staff (K-12), students, and parents for a job well done.



Upcoming TCA Board Meetings

Monday, October 17 @ 6:00 pm

Monday, November 14 @ 6:00 pm

Monday, December 12 @ 6:00 pm

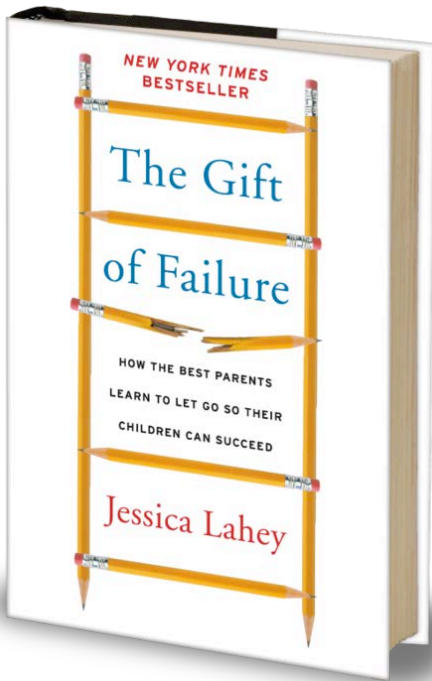
all meetings are held in rooms 2213/14 at North Secondary

ROMULUS & REMUS

Sometimes you just do not know what to expect when students show up at TCA. During “*Meet and Greet*” at one of our elementary schools earlier in August a new student was introduced to his teacher. As the student was dropping off school supplies, the teacher was showing some students the new gerbils in the classroom for the school year. The gerbils are named *Romulus* and *Remus* from the main characters in Rome’s foundation myth. The young student, just entering 3rd grade, asked genuinely concerned, “Mrs. White, Romulus isn’t going to kill Remus, is he?”



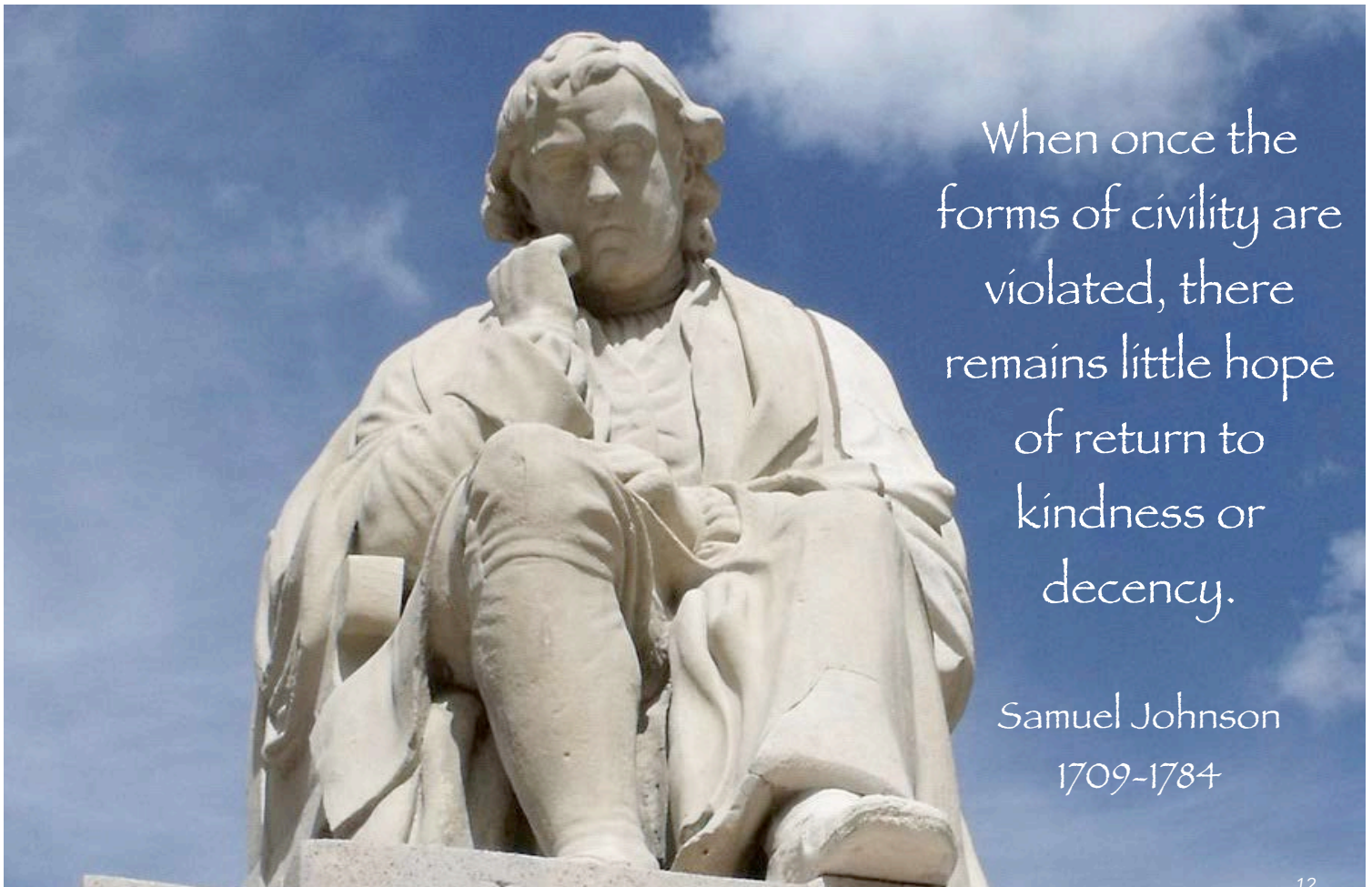
public domain image of an altar showing the discovery of Romulus and Remus



BEYOND THE BOOK CLUB

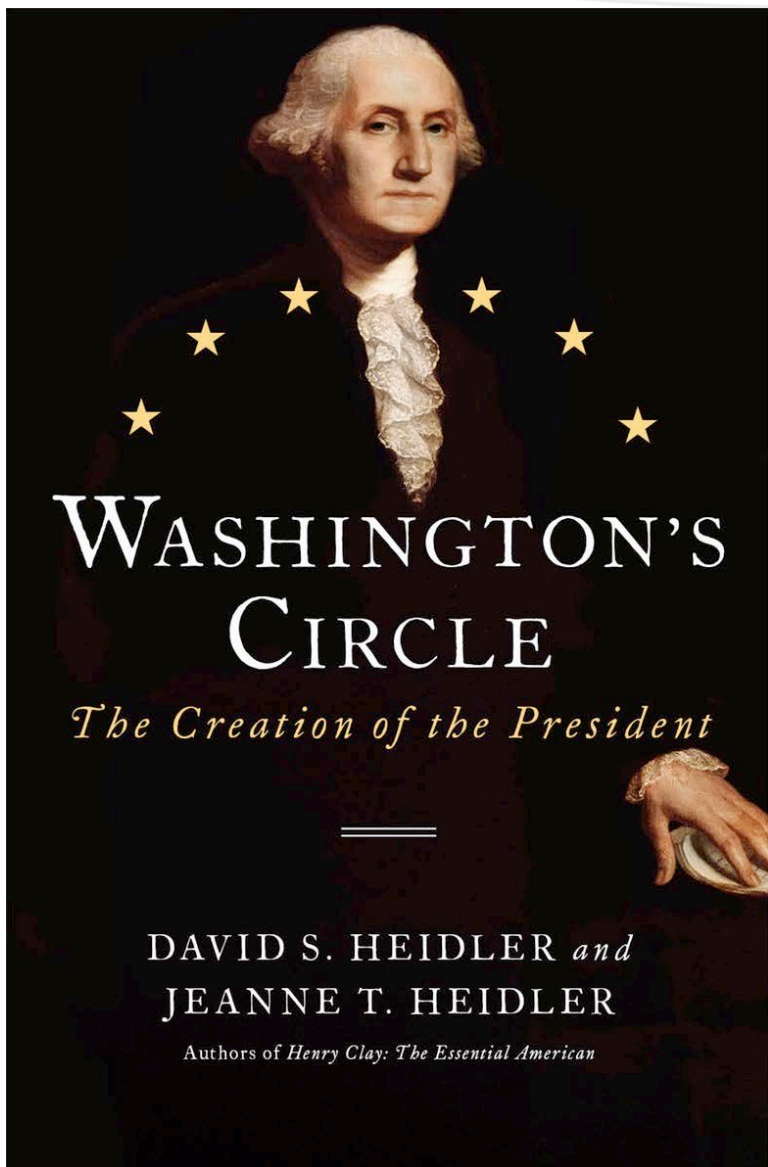
As part of our continuing *Engaging Minds* theme this year we will have our first meetings of the **Beyond the Book Club** on *Washington's Circle: The Creation of the President* the last week of October at TCA's North Campus. The second book to be discussed this first semester will be *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed* by Jessica Lahey. We will discuss this title the last week of November. If you would like to join us for one of the sessions please RSVP to me at wjolly@asd20.org. Our book study meetings will each last approximately 90-minutes.

If you would like more information on how you can participate in the *Engaging Minds* book studies and the specific dates we will discuss the four titles (two each semester) this year please e-mail me at the address above.



When once the
forms of civility are
violated, there
remains little hope
of return to
kindness or
decency.

Samuel Johnson
1709-1784



GEORGE WASHINGTON

CHARACTER AND LEADERSHIP

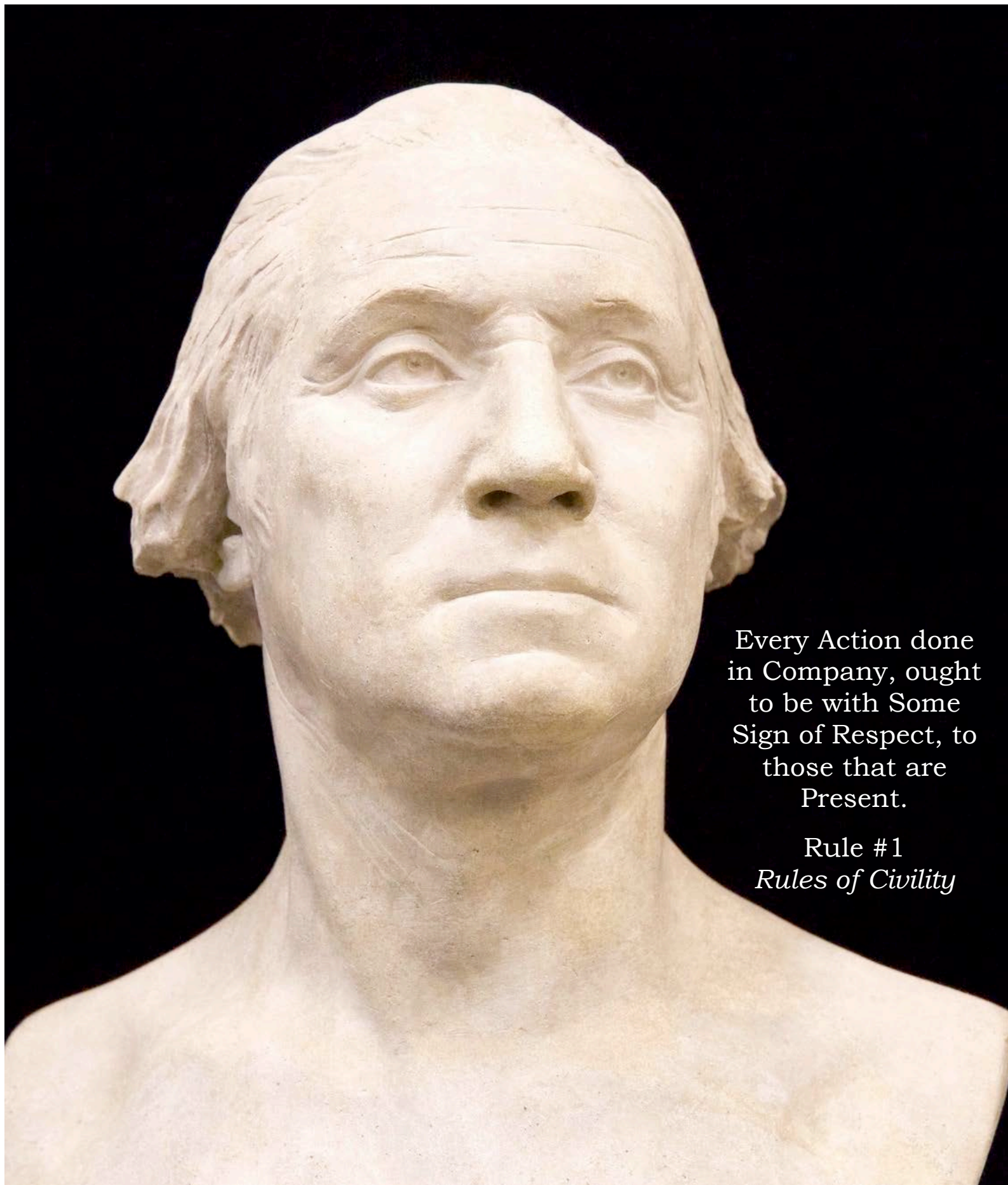
TCA Core Beliefs and Values: *We value our responsibilities even above our rights when it comes to serving our fellow man and seek to foster a culture of service to others . . . We value cultivating virtuous character and each citizen’s responsibility to uphold the Constitution . . . We value an education that instills traditional values through the study of quality, time-tested history . . .*

Next month, on October 10th, TCA welcomes authors David and Jeanne Heidler as our guest speakers for our annual October Conference. Our teaching staff has been reading their book on Washington and the founding years of our government since the end of last school year. In this presidential election year it is always nice to look back and reflect upon those early years of our country and the examples provided by leaders such as George Washington. The Heidlers will begin our conference with a presentation on **George Washington: Character and Leadership**.

“Traditional accounts portray George Washington as a solitary actor in the drama of American nationhood. In fact, he was the intensely human lead in one of history’s most colorful, and contentious, ensembles. David S. Heidler and Jeanne T. Heidler bring the whole cast to unforgettable life in this character study–cum–group portrait–cum–old-fashioned page-turner. Readers are in for a treat!”—**Richard Norton Smith**, Pulitzer Prize finalist and author of *On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller*

David S. Heidler and **Jeanne T. Heidler** have written numerous scholarly books and articles dealing with the history of the early American republic, the Antebellum period, and the Civil War. They are authors of the acclaimed biography *Henry Clay: The Essential American*. David S. Heidler taught history for many years at the university level, and Jeanne T. Heidler is Professor Emeritus at the United States Air Force Academy. Their most recent work *Washington’s Circle: The Creation of the President* received the **2016 Book Award for Excellence in American History** from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.





Every Action done
in Company, ought
to be with Some
Sign of Respect, to
those that are
Present.

Rule #1
Rules of Civility