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No Substitute for Knowledge

By: Bob Schaffer, LCHS Principal

As students gear up for college tests, here is one big thing to keep in mind: There is no substitute for knowledge.

The ability to complete college-level work is fundamentally what college-readiness assessments like the SAT, ACT, and other similar tests attempt to measure. High scores logically reflect the test taker's preparation throughout primary and secondary school.

Sure, there are ways to enhance scores – perhaps by a point or two – through crash-course, test-preparation programs. Developing familiarity with the test format can sometimes elevate one's confidence on exam day.

It won't, however, make you appear smarter than you actually are.

The only kind of preparation that offers an authentic advantage of legitimate college readiness is a rigorous academic program that starts early and is refined through the formative years of adolescence. Strong test takers have deep background knowledge and are inured to the drill of being tested.

Liberty's strategy is rather straightforward and logical. Starting in the early grades, Liberty offers a proven core curriculum called The Core Knowledge Sequence. This academic strategy enjoys an unparalleled track record of success here in Colorado, throughout the country, and even internationally.

On an instructional level, Liberty treats its classroom instructors like actual professionals, compensating and retaining them based upon verifiable professional results and institutional leadership. At the high-school level, Liberty Common High School is unambiguously devoted to college preparation.

We offer courses which are distinctly oriented to college readiness. We consistently achieve results that are among the state's highest when compared to all Colorado high schools. Independent analyses have ranked Liberty first in the state throughout most of the school's existence.

Liberty offers high-quality college counseling, indicating we are serious about college preparation. Liberty keeps its students on track to SAT and ACT success by administering the associated pre-tests in the years leading up to their junior year in high school.

Liberty insists upon a challenging course load right through the senior year. We do not believe in shortcuts. We know the easy way through high school is the hardest way through college.

Conversely, the hard way through high school is the easiest way through college. In this regard, there truly is no substitute for knowledge.

Remember, it is the right and responsibility of parents to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Through energetic parental engagement, and a firm reliance upon common knowledge, common virtue and common sense, Liberty prepares college-bound students to shine on the SAT and ACT – and well beyond through their exciting life journeys.