



Greater Good in Education  
SCIENCE-BASED PRACTICES FOR KINDER, HAPPIER SCHOOLS

## ARISTOTLE'S THOUGHTS ON CANDIDATE LIVES

To the life organized around the pursuit of pleasure, Aristotle asks:

- But does this sort of life really give full exercise to all of our distinctively human capacities? What about the role of reason, or thinking?

To the life organized around the pursuit of wealth and accumulation of things, Aristotle asks:

- But for what purpose? Surely the purpose that you want money for, is it what you really want? Do you want it for security, for power, or to buy the things that give you pleasure? Or anything else?

To the life shaped around the quest for status and respect, Aristotle asks:

- But by whom do you want to be respected, and why is their view so important to you?
- And what will become of your life, when the very people who now give you applause, go on to condemn you—people, after all, are fickle, are they not...?
- And what will you do to persuade others to give you this applause, or honor—you must rely upon them giving it, and those that give it, can just as easily take it away...
- What are the sorts of things you wish to be respected for? Are they the sorts of things that are really worthwhile?