

Lift Up Your Vision on Educating Our Young People

With our current emphasis on cultivating the culture of learning in the Bahá'í world, do we have enough facilities where learning activities can take place? More specifically, does Bellemont Bahá'í School have a place in the promotion of this culture of learning?

If we lift our vision a little higher to visualize entry by troops, then the answer is a resounding "yes!" With the future in our view, we should maintain all the schools we have and seek to expand the network of Baha'i school facilities at the local, national, and universal levels.

When we seriously ponder on the training of our children and youths in the Bahá'í culture, the importance of schools and retreats becomes very clear. Increasing the number of Bahá'í schools over those serving the National Spiritual Assembly would be helpful in providing education to new Bahá'ís and for the training of their children and youth. As they step out of their homes, young children today are surrounded by the crass secular society and bombarded by the arrows of temporal temptations. This reality should give us pause. We cannot fail our children! Otherwise they would become a major source of unhappiness for all of us.

Bahá'u' lláh placed the responsibility for the education of children with the parents, and by extension on the community. He says, "...education and training are recorded in the Book of God as obligatory and not voluntary ... Should they neglect this matter, they shall be held responsible ..." (The Revelations of Bahá'u' lláh, volume 3, p. 328)

Surely we will not leave our children and youth to the confusion and uncertainty of a disintegrating society, will we? Nor should parents be left to confront these difficult times without help from our Bahá'í institutions and communities.

Is it not time to build more schools for the education of the young people who will soon assume responsibility of advancing the Faith? As the future custodians of the Faith, it is essential that we all - parents, grandparents, and entire families be unified behind efforts to provide them with secure places for their schooling.

The Bellemont Bahá'í School aspires to become a safe haven for the education of young people everywhere and hopes to share the task with the worldwide Bahá'ís community. The school is Bahá'í owned and has the potential of expanding with the future growth of the Faith. But more people are needed to direct the school operations, design curricula, and administering programs. We need qualified teachers to instruct and nurture the students of all families that are seeking the educational opportunities the Bahá'ís Faith has to offer.

The Bellemont Bahá'í School Property Committee, formed in 1986, was given the mandate to develop and manage the school by the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Flagstaff, Arizona. With the committee's direction and help from many Bahá'ís everywhere the school will grow to meet the demands of our Faith. The committee constantly consults on raising funds, prioritizing goals, involving more people to use the school, and developing ways to reach out to a larger segment of the American Bahá'í

community and beyond to increase the base of support for the school.

The School is an important developing Baha'i institution and offers a safe haven for summer schools, institutes, and family cultural, musical, and recreational events.

If you are interested in serving the Bellemont Bahá'i School, please contact:

The Bellemont Bahá'i School
P.O. Box 2533
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2533
Email: contact@bellemontbahaischool.org