



Does Spending More Money for Public Schools Make Students Smarter?

by James Reza

Mon, Apr 18, 2011, 08:34 AM

I can never thank the Good Lord enough for all the wonderful teachers He put in my life starting from the 1st to the 12th grade. From 1st to the 8th grade, I attended my beloved San Jose Catholic School, where the Sisters of St. Mary of Numur taught me. The student body was 100% Hispanic. Needless to say, the only white faces in the school were those of the nuns, with the exception of my 1st grade teacher, Sister Mary Angela, who hailed from Mexico. San Jose had 4 classrooms and each room was divided into two grades. Four nuns taught two grades in each classroom. The student enrollment consisted of about 120 to 150 students. Thus, each class had about 15 plus students in each grade. I remember that the nuns would teach one grade, give them their assignments and then teach the other grade while one group of students were studying or working on their assigned homework. The matriarch or principal if you wish was my all-time favorite teacher Sister Lawrenceia.

Though San Jose would be considered a poor school by today's standards, that being that we had no central or heating units, no modern bath facilities, no lunchroom, nor an electric buzz system to summon or dismiss the students, we excelled in our scholastic studies and even in sports. I remember one year during winter it got so cold that our inkbottles froze. Thinking we were going to be given some slack by the nuns they made us put the frozen inkbottles on top of the standing gas heater to thaw out the ink. What can I say, we continued with our studies. The nuns often would engage us in spelling bees with the surrounding public schools (Denver, M. G. Ellis, Circle Park), which often boasted a predominately white student enrollment. So here you have it folks, a bunch of rag torn Hispanic kids challenging the somewhat uppity white public school students. But, most often, the San Jose students would prevail over the public school students. Why so, some might wonder. Folks, the nuns drilled us daily in spelling, math, history, religion, reading, and more so in English composition, pronunciation, and defining and use of English words. The nuns knew we as Hispanics had a tough road ahead of us and wanted to prepare us as best as they could to meet the educational challenges we faced in the coming years.

After leaving San Jose, I entered the 9th grade at J. P. Elder Jr. High, a public school a few blocks from San Jose. I remember that the teachers were very receptive to San Jose students, praising the nuns for teaching us well. At J. P. Elder I was in a dream come true school. We had showers, excellent bath facilities, and a wonderful cafeteria. Also, the teachers were excellent in teaching us typing, government, English prose and poetry, history, algebra, PE, and my favorite subject, Wood Shop where I learned to use wood working tools: table saws, routers, band saws, etc.

After leaving J. P. Elder, I enrolled at Tech High in 1954, a trade school, close to J. P. Elder. Having family members who were printers I took Print Shop. Other male friends took welding, wood shop, diesel, auto mechanic, aeronautics, machine shop, photograph, and engineering drafting. Girls I knew took cosmetology, home making, office machines, commercial art, typing, and short hand. Tech also offered courses that would prepare you for college. Courses like: trigonometry, biology, calculus, journalism and advanced algebra proved to be very helpful to friends who went to college and earned their respective degrees.

Folks, I, along with many of my Hispanic and white friends who graduated from Tech landed well paying jobs in all types of industries: aircraft, auto, printing, machine shops, to name but a few. Several girls I knew who took cosmetology opened up their own salons and eared a good living for themselves and

Viewpoints



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James Reza
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O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth, That I am meek ...

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(Part 8)

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Texas Rangers News

families, plus, they hired many hairstylists who graduated from Tech.

Many of you are aware, that our public schools are under fire for under performance in teaching. Though I respect those in the teaching profession, see how this grabs you Texas taxpayers. In Texas, after 3 years, public school teachers receive what's commonly called "tenure," a special employment protection that teachers unions defend. As federal statistics indicate, tenured teachers (as opposed to less senior "probationary" teachers) are almost impossible to fire. Here's the firing rate for teachers: Experienced teacher < 1.29%, Probationary teacher < 0.35%, Private school teacher < 9.8%.

From the Clinton, Bush, and to the now Obama Administration the Federal Government has dumped billions in education and each year there's less to show for. Politicians talk like spending more for schools is synonymous with actually educating students, but it isn't. According to the Cato Institute, America ranks 3rd in the world per student spending behind Norway and Switzerland. Yet, our 8th graders rank 14th in reading, 17th in science and 25th in math. Spending per child cost taxpayers \$10,000 per year. About 8% of funding public schools comes from the Federal Government and the rest from homeowners. Yet, 1/3 of teens drop out of school, and half who go to college dropout. Spending on education has tripled since 1970 while reading, math and science remain flat.

Taxpayers, whether you have kids in school or not, here's your yearly tax share according to your annual salaries and property values. Under 15K, \$3.31; 30K to 49K, \$126.24; 100K to 199K, \$955.96; 250K or more, \$9,474.92. This year the Obama Administration plans to spend 77 billion to improve our public schools, but will it? I personally doubt it. Now you know which taxpayers carry the load for funding our inept public schools. No, it's not those low paid workers, who live in poor neighborhoods, but rather those mean uncaring rich folks who live in nice homes and neighborhoods.



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...
written by **GaryStan** , April 18, 2011

In Milwaukee, the public school system collects over \$13,000 per student where less than half graduate. In the private and choice schools, school administrators receive less than half of what the public schools collect and the students do just as well but the graduation rate are much better than the public schools so I have to say the non public schools do a better job teaching, educating, and motivating the kids for a lifetime of work. What chance of a good life does a kid have who doesn't even graduate with a high school diploma? I have an electrical contracting company in Milwaukee, some of these same drop out students come to me asking for a job. Besides having difficulty with basic English skills, they don't have the basic skills to communicate with a me let alone a paying customer, how in the world could I ever let them represent my company? The social problems in Milwaukee come from crappy homes with crappy parents who want the nanny state to pay and take care of their kids. By the way, the Milwaukee Public school system is all unionized, the choice and private schools are not. The union-istas are among the best paid teachers in the state and they do the poorest job in the state. The choice schools with non-union teachers have the same mix of students as the public school teachers but more of their students graduate and go on to college for less than half the money of the public schools. The main problem is the self centeredness of the union teachers, spending more than twice the money doesn't help education, it only hurts the students and the taxpayers.

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James Reza Would You Rather Be Happy or Famous?

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Stuff
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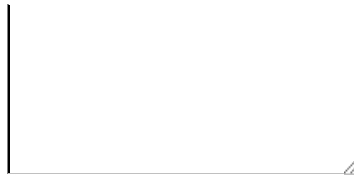


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