

AGENCY

Principle:

Education “must be based on freedom - never force.”

-Ezra Taft Benson



ASA uses an
agency-based
philosophy

WHY IS AGENCY VITAL TO EDUCATION?

The vision of Aspire Scholar Academy is based on the principle of Agency. Here you will find a collection of quotes that explain the important role of agency in education and how ASA applies agency-based philosophy.

We must Act and not be Acted Upon in our Education

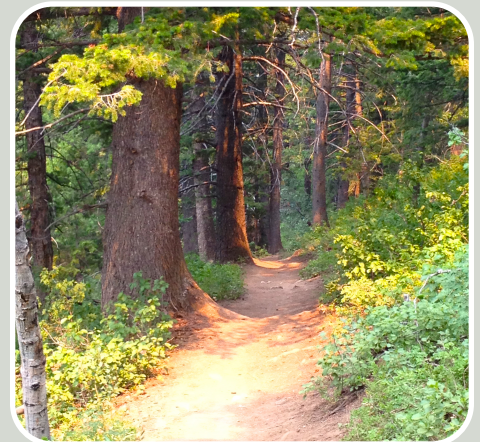
“As sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father, we have been blessed with the gift of agency, the capacity and power of independent action... As learners, you and I are to act and be ‘doers of the word’ (James 1:22) and not simply hearers who are only acted upon. Are you and I truly agents who act and seek to learn, or are we waiting to be acted upon and relying exclusively on other people to teach us? To become and remain spiritually firm, steadfast, and immovable in the world that does now and will exist, we should exercise our moral agency in accordance with true principles and seek learning by patiently and persistently asking, seeking and knocking (see 3 Nephi

14:7).” - Elder Bednar, Increase in Learning, p. 3,4

How ASA applies agency:

Principle: Choosing an education blesses us with the Spirit and we will desire to gain more. The light and truth we gain will cleave unto the light and truth we have (see D&C 88:40). Force often creates resistance to this process. The light that others share encourages this process.

Method: We choose to become members of the scholar group at ASA when we are ready to challenge ourselves to get the education we need. Once we are in the group, we choose our level of engagement. By choosing to participate we agree to prepare for and attend classes.



Therefore, to retain our agency we must daily walk in the light of our Lord and Savior and follow the path of obedience. It is the only path that leads to our Father in Heaven. -Elder Robert D. Hales

USING OUR AGENCY TO ACT INVITES THE HOLY SPIRIT TO TEACH US

Participation allows students to be taught by the Holy Ghost

"When you encourage students to raise their hand to respond to a question, they signify to the Holy Spirit their willingness to learn. That use of moral agency will allow the Spirit to motivate and give them more powerful guidance during your time together. Participation allows individuals to experience being led by the Spirit. They learn to recognize and feel what spiritual guidance is." (Richard G. Scott, 'Helping Others to Be Spiritually Led,' Aug. 11, 1998)

"Parents and leaders should become guides who help young people learn how to find answers for themselves. Youth need to act as agents and properly exercise their agency in order to obtain and retain strong testimonies and to become converted... Ultimately, a learner needs to exercise agency in righteousness and thereby invite the truth *into* the heart - and thereby seek to obtain

the spiritual gift of understanding" (Elder Bednar, Increase in Learning, p. 70)

This same principle applies to gaining knowledge and understanding in all areas.

Correct use of Agency leads to Freedom

Education is a fundamental component of the moral agency God has given to each of his children. "For behold, ye are free," declared Samuel the Lamanite. "Ye are permitted to act for yourselves; for behold, God hath given you a knowledge and he hath made you free" (Helaman 14:30) As we increase our intellectual capacity and learn "things both in heaven and in the earth, and under the earth; things which have been, things which are, things which must shortly come to pass; things which are

abroad: (see D&C 88:79-80), we proportionally increase our ability and effectiveness as God's agents on earth. Conversely, those who do not responsibly educate themselves, and who instead willingly remain in ignorance, subject themselves to being placed in bondage by others who know and are able to do more...An educated person is more free and able to "act" of his own accord, in contrast to the uneducated person who, more often than not, becomes "acted upon" by circumstances of his environment and whatever limited opportunities he can find.

-Latter-day Responsibility, p. 151



Action
invites the
Spirit to teach
you truth

From Websters 1828 Dictionary:

AGENCY, n. 1. The quality of moving or of exerting power; the state of being in action; action; operation; instrumentality; as, the agency of providence in the natural world.

EDUCATION, n. The bringing up, as of a child, instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for

usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.