

Book Reviews

reviewed by Patch Blakey

I've been asked by ACCS school administrators for years if there is a good book that would help them better understand and accomplish their role as a school administrator. I am embarrassed to acknowledge this truth, but for years, I have regretfully said, "Gosh, I don't know. But there should be!" Well, there is, and it has been around for some time under my very

nose. *Putting Feet on the Trivium* by Tom Garfield is an extremely helpful compendium of administrative issues, problems, concerns, and thoughtful suggestions for each that are well worth the time to read.

Garfield has been at the business of administering a classical Christian school for over 26 years and has gained an abundance of valuable wisdom and experience during that time. He has also been a regular speaker at the national ACCS conferences and has hosted about a decade of annual teacher training conferences. He has visited numerous schools providing training, consulting, and conducting accreditation visits. *Putting Feet on the Trivium* contains many helpful anecdotes and personal success stories as well as some of the painful failures. The book is written with engaging frankness as well as with a welcome touch of Tom's wit and humor. The book communicates a love for Christ and the Scriptures, as well as a strong commitment to helping families raise up godly children,

all to the glory of God.

Some of the helpful topics in the book include: board diplomacy—how to get along with your school board; staff considerations—hiring, evaluating, the difference between men and women, and the role of vol-

unteers; families—admissions and gatekeeping, the role of parents, as well as kids, both boys and girls; school discipline, rules and standards;

curriculum planning—homework, the place of computers; daily management/scheduling—facility issues, financial issues, budget development, annual events calendar; development and community relations, and much more. The appendices include job descriptions and evaluation forms for both the elementary and secondary principals and an evaluation form for the school's development officer.

For all of those administrators to whom I have given a lame answer in the past, I am now seeking to make restitution. It's never too late to learn from other's successes and failures, indeed, we are told that the accounts in the Scriptures are there for us to learn from, "Now these things became our examples" (1 Corinthians 10:6a). *Putting Feet on the Trivium* provides the administrators of classical Christian schools with the practical insights of a seasoned administrator, acting as a handbook on what pitfalls to avoid and how to plan for success. I thankfully commend it to your reading and benefit.

Putting Feet on the Trivium:

A Handbook for Administrators of Classical, Christian Schools

by Tom Garfield

Logos School, Moscow, Idaho, 145 pages, \$25

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