

# *Alliance For Progress, Inc.*

## *COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY*

Education is an ancient practice that perhaps began with the first men (humans). Many civilizations utilized oral story telling, written documents and the like, to communicate ideas and methodologies from one generation to another. Formal education, as presently known, began in the medieval age with the *trivium*: grammar, logic (dialectic), rhetoric, and later with the *quadrivium*: arithmetic, geometry, music, and astronomy. These formed the *artes liberales* (liberal arts), which was taught to seminarians to better instruct and guide the People of God. These *artes liberales* were in effect to form, instruct, develop, and imbue men with knowledge, all the while removing any held ignorance and/or superstition. It is a tradition very much alive in all universities, colleges, high schools, junior highs, elementary schools and pre-K centers.

It is well known that success is achieved when men have choices; choices which increase evermore with knowledge. Thus, the more knowledge a man has the greater his selection of choices will be. Then, naturally, questions arise: how does a child obtain in-depth knowledge?; where may a child obtain said knowledge?; what does this said knowledge consist of?; etc...

Today, we find our community – Highbridge, clamoring for a new public junior high (middle school) in which their children may receive a sound and though education in their very own neighborhood. An education that offers their children *scientia*: knowledge – systematized knowledge as an object of study and a system of knowledge covering general truths or the operation of general laws especially as obtained and tested through scientific method<sup>1</sup>.

Alliance For Progress, Inc. (AFP) strongly supports the development of a new public middle school in the Highbridge community. But AFP will only support and promote this cause so long as the new Highbridge middle school teaches authentic scholarship especially as it relates to foreign languages (i.e.: English, French, Latin, and Spanish), the arts (i.e.: music and painting classes), hard sciences (i.e.: earth science, intro to bio., and intro to chem.), economics (i.e.: personal finance, banking system, and intro to accounting) and the like, all the while having student excel in the established NYS middle school curriculum. It is crucial that this new school contain a few or all of the aforementioned in order to imbue the present generation and those to come with *scientia*.

Too often our neighborhood gets stifled in the intricacies of the hype fomented by municipal agencies or representatives and the core of said objectives – a sound and though education, is dumb-down leaving the client (the student) with an ill – conceived notion of personal and academic success which does not offer much but good feeling and little knowledge – little opportunities – little choices – little to no success. Where, then, I ask, can a man find happiness if his formative years have been but a sweet-nothing? Happiness is obtainable upon success which necessities knowledge.

AFP is dedicated to assisting the less-fortunate and working families in climbing the social, economic, and academic ladder whereby individuals are formed to be financial, civic, and moral agents transforming society into a more just and equitable community. Therefore, it is only fitting that AFP promote said cause – to establish a new Highbridge public middle school to meet the present population influx and cultural composition of our neighborhood.

Where can a child go to continue and truly obtain a sound education after completing elementary school? Somewhere else besides Highbridge! This is unequivocally unacceptable – truly a modern tragedy which must be remedied.

Sincerely,  
**Manuel Martínez**  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> Merriam – Webster 2007 - <http://m-w.com/dictionary/science>