

## **MARTIN BARRON**

*Began meeting students and visiting AVID in 2019*

**Strength** – I like optimizing. I enjoy the habit of continuous improvement and do not get bored with adopting what I think are better methods, for small tasks as much as big ventures. I have been trained to become an instinctive team player, not by virtue but by repetition forcing me to learn that life is better that way. The two together sometimes make me good at taking correction and overcoming obstinacy. I am a believer in thinking from the global (big picture, all dimensions possible) to the specific (the trees in the wood). In my opinion this, when combined with alertly observing the outside world and noticing ideas that flow around, gives the greatest array of choices and creative possibilities. And I believe loyalty can be a strength. Thinking loyalty aligns with determination and is a strength. But beware of the dangers of blind loyalty. Being biased is a normal human condition that can only be recognized by learning. We live in a world where every society is subject to its variety of propaganda and needs to know this fact.

### **Top 3 Values & Why-**

Empathy – How does the other person feel? What thoughts does the other person have? I will never be able to understand what it is like to “walk in the shoes” of a person whose life and experience has been different from mine, but I use references and comparisons to try. Maybe empathy helps me listen better. Maybe empathy enables two people to discover an idea or solution that would not have been found by a solo person. Maybe empathy helps build friendship and support. Maybe empathy finds goals of mutual benefit such that combined welfare and achievement is maximized. But empathy can also take a person sideways. If a person’s priority is personal power and material success the path may require gamesmanship that suppresses and controls empathy, or uses the understanding that empathy can create to manipulate and exploit others. Empathy comes with a “How much?” choice. We have discretion over how we apply the knowledge power gained from empathy. I valued quality of life over power and material success but I confess that I protected my comfort and security by selectively controlling empathy.

Curiosity – Discovery is my twin word to Curiosity. Being curious is fun; it makes life more interesting. It improves lateral thinking, which is a powerful tool for being a more effective human being. Curiosity feeds “Lifetime Learning” which is an essential skill in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Logic – My definition of Logic is that it is the tool that “Tests for Truth”. Does a statement of opinion or advice make sense to me? I will not know the details of its argument but I strongly believe in putting what I am told and what I am told to do through my personal logic filter, going ahead if it seems reasonable by my standards, pausing to learn more if it raises questions to me about validity. I see this as a very important part of my unique identity. A lifelong inventory of experiences creates a predictor of whether something is likely to be big or small (magnitude), which direction it pushes (vector), and whether the characteristics displayed seem consistent. This is pretty fuzzy and abstract but I find that it mostly gives trustworthy guidance. How does this influence risk taking? All of the biggest decisions of my life, emotional and practical, were gut decisions taken quickly

because they felt right even if they were very uncertain and had a high risk of failure. But they all passed my logic test and I regret none of them.

**Why I choose to be in AVID** - For me AVID is an exciting room that I was not supposed to see inside. AVID students create their own world of achievements by individual effort, but you also use each other as models and incentive-creators. Most of you were not given opportunity on a plate; you had to overcome obstacles. Through AVID you earn the right to belong as complete members to the world after high school. There are similarities between what you learn in AVID and what I was given 2 generations ago as professional management training for a privileged few. Belonging is what we might have in common. I left the country of my birth at 17 and for my whole career was always an “outsider” who slightly pulled his punches, working in 5 countries before coming to Wenatchee. When I returned to schools as a board member, many years after being a parent, I suddenly realized that after 29 years in Wenatchee I also belong and can be myself. I see your AVID experience as giving you that power of belonging.

**20 Square Feet - Priorities**

Teaching and Learning	1. This is a 2-way street
AVID	1. Provide encouragement
Personal Relationships	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Say thank you, and mean it</li> <li>2. Signal, communicate, and explain – actions and ideas</li> <li>3. Be interested in others, and show it</li> <li>4. Be open-minded and adaptable</li> <li>5. Do not neglect family and those closest to you</li> </ol>