

Setting the Tone - Part IV

Edward W. Bok:

Bok Academy will offer an educational opportunity that exemplifies and honors the life of this philanthropist, who in the 1920's created a sanctuary: a place of beauty, serenity, and peace in Lake Wales. We will teach the student what it means to live by the Bok family legacy: "*Make the world a bit better and more beautiful for having lived in it.*"

We will adopt the ideals that Edward W. Bok etched into the gardens and into the stones of the tower. We will teach the students why Edward Bok was a Renaissance man and how his views of knowledge and learning are a perfectly integrated approach.

The partnership with the ecosystem that is Bok Tower and the surrounding gardens will serve as our laboratory. The physical space allows for elegant lessons on the environmental issues: sustainability, land management, politics, governance, botany, zoology, bio-chemistry, etc. The tower lends itself to amazing lessons in math, physics, engineering, music, art, architecture, design, history, and the poetics of language.

The beauty of Bok Tower Gardens will reinforce Bok Academy's commitment to teaching about beauty and harmony and the importance of these values. Teaching students to appreciate how beauty permeates the natural world and how attention to aesthetics, beauty, and harmony can transform lives and communities. It is our hope that this educational opportunity will help create young leaders who have a deeper understanding about the structure of knowledge and a deeper desire to live a life of merit.

Bok Academy's staff has read *The Americanization of Edward Bok*, his autobiography and is working to weave what we have learned into the fabric of this school.