

The Lifeworld of Leadership: Creating Culture, Community, and Personal Meaning in Our Schools

By Thomas J. Sergiovanni

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"Sergiovanni's book gives life and meaning to the words 'lifeworld' and 'systemsworld'--bringing a new and insightful perspective to the discourse on school reform--and challenges school leaders to gain a more holistic view of students and interaction in the teaching-learning process."--Gerald N. Tirozzi, executive director, The National Association of Secondary School Principals

"Once again, Sergiovanni has used his remarkable and unique insight to bring clarity to a major challenge of current leadership--the use of standards. He has managed to contextualize the issue of standards, through looking at the 'lifeworld' of schools, in a way no one else has. This is a fresh and thought-provoking take on a subject school leaders must understand."--Paul D. Houston, executive director, American Association of School Administrators

This inspiring book calls for leaders who act according to the unique culture, values, and needs of their schools. Tom Sergiovanni examines why this "lifeworld" is so vital to school success and shows how local leadership can make the difference in creating healthy, rigorous schools. He explores the crucial link between school character and school improvement. By building institutional character at the local level, principals, superintendents, and policymakers can not only protect the lifeworld of their schools but also craft an educational system based on layered loyalties and shared accountability.

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Editorial Review

Review
"Sergiovanni shows democracy at work in a way that makes theories accessible to all." ("Childhood Education," Summer 2002)

Review
“Leaders who are trying to act according to the unique culture, values, and needs of their schools while also meeting state and national standards will find this inspiring book a welcome addition to their professional libraries.”
--*The School Administrator*

"Sergiovanni gets to the heart of school reform and renewal in this book. He shows how local school communities can construct standards that support serious learning and effective caring for students. This is a must read for anyone involved in education policy or practice today."
--Linda Darling-Hammond, professor of education, Stanford University, and codirector, National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching (NCREST), Teachers College, Columbia University

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From the Inside Flap
At a time when sweeping educational mandates, systems requirements, and political conflicts seem to besiege our schools, it becomes clear that school leaders are most effective when they act according to the unique culture, values, and needs of their schools. In this inspiring book, Thomas J. Sergiovanni examines why the "lifeworld" of schools is so vital to school success and shows how local leadership can make the difference in creating healthy, rigorous schools for our children.The Lifeworld of Leadership explores the crucial link between school character and school improvement. By building institutional character at the local level, principals, superintAndents, and policymakers can not only protect the lifeworld of their schools but also craft an educational system based on layered loyalties and shared accountability. Sergiovanni draws from an exhaustive review of school reform initiatives in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand to provide specific and compelling examples of local school leadership at its best. He proposes initiatives that invite all educational stakeholders to lead without compromising the legitimate interests of their schools and communities.

Users Review

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