By Constance L. Rice

It was 9 a.m. on May 10, 2007, at Westminster Jr. High School in Westminster, Calif. There was nothing unusual about the scene, and yet this was the beginning of something remarkable.

Adorned in a red tie and blue Oxford shirt, and wearing a white cap, Spanish teacher Thomas Rodriguez stepped to the front of his seventh-grade class. "I am going to devote yesterday," he said. "I am going to devote this whole day to listening to them," said Rodriguez, who said he had started the program four years before.

As he spoke, students raised their hands, asking questions, offering opinions, sharing insights.

"The ideal would be for every kid to have a bank account that only the student has access to, the student is the custodian, the student is in control," said Rodriguez.

The definition of Yankee know-how

By Joshua Kendall

American owe no less respect to Noah Webster Jr., lexicographer and independent scholar, than to any other person. Webster, who was born in the United States in 1758 and died in 1843, was one of the country's most influential thinkers and writers, and his work remains relevant today.

Webster was not only a prolific writer and thinker, but he was also a strong advocate for the American Revolution and for the idea of a national language. He believed that the United States should have its own language, distinct from that of Britain, and he worked tirelessly to promote this idea.

Webster's most famous work is his dictionary, which he published in 1828. The dictionary was a groundbreaking achievement, and it remains one of the most influential works in American history.

Webster was also a prolific writer, and he published a number of other works, including books on grammar and spelling. He was also a strong advocate for the idea of a national language, and he wrote extensively on the subject.

Webster's work has continued to influence American culture, and his ideas have been embraced by generations of Americans. His legacy is a testament to the power of a strong mind, and to the importance of a national language.