The Heights School
Natural Philosophy - 2021
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- **Act(-uality)**: a principle of perfection in something which, in Natural Philosophy, is intimately related to its motion.
- **Potency(-ality)**: a principle of imperfection and capacity to possess a perfection which, in Natural Philosophy, is intimately related to its lack of motion.
- **Motion**: According to Aristotle, it is "the actualization of what exists in potency insofar as it is in potency."
- **Local motion**: According to Aristotle, it is "the actuality of mobile being precisely as mobile."
- **Life**: the first act of a natural body which possesses a potency for that act within it and, therefore, is a kind of activity (immanent and/or transitive) conferred by a substantial form on a subject with operations intimately related to the kind of being it is.
- **Primary matter**: a principle of existence which signifies pure possibility, but does not exist in itself.
- **Secondary matter**: a principle of existence which conveys imperfection in a subject already under the influence of a substantial form.
- **Material cause**: one of Aristotle's four causes which is rendered as "that from which something is" and, in this sense, refers to “secondary matter” NOT "primary matter".
- **Formal cause**: one of Aristotle's four causes which is rendered as "that through which something is", of which there are two kinds: *substantial* (conveying “being”) and *accidental* (conveying a non-essential/”accidental” perfection of the“being”).
- **Final cause:** one of Aristotle's four causes which is rendered as "that for the sake of which something is.”
- **Efficient cause**: one of Aristotle's four causes which is rendered as "that by which something is" and which is intrinsically related to local motion.