

See the Story Live the Story



Teaching *for*
TRANSFORMATION





We can invite learners to explore the kingdom story.



We can nurture learners to desire to be peculiar people.




We can empower learners to live restoratively in God's world.


But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9 KJV





The primary goal of Christian education is the formation of a peculiar people—a people who desire the kingdom of God and thus undertake their vocations as an expression of that desire.



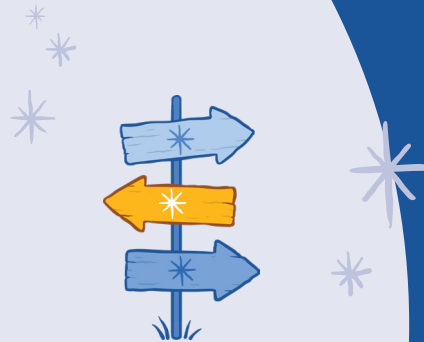
James K. A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom*

Christian School

Mission and Vision



Deep Hope
a statement of purpose
and calling



Throughlines
discipleship habits
and practices that form the
learners and transform God's
world around them

CORE PRACTICES



Formational Learning Experiences
opportunities for learners to practice
living the Kingdom Story by doing
real work that meets the real needs
of real people



Storyline
a compelling vision of the
Kingdom that connects the
learners and the learning to
God's Story

ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

Transformational Lessons
invite, nurture, and
empower the learners

Habits of Learning
nurture life-long practices
for deeper learning

Storyboards
map the learning journey
within God's Story

Opening and Closing Circles
build community and foster
belonging among learners

Celebrations of Learning
empower learners to share
the journey with their
community


Learning Targets
focus learning and
empower the learner

Formative Assessment
offers specific
feedback to guide
the learning journey


Protocols
engage learners
and promote
collaboration

Reflection
connects and extends
the learning






“ The Deep Hope of Teaching for Transformation is to invite, nurture, and empower learners to live restoratively within God’s story of redemption through deeper learning. ”



It is nothing but a pious wish and a grossly unwarranted hope that students trained to be passive and non-creative in school will suddenly, upon graduation, actively contribute to the formation of Christian culture.



Nicholas Wolterstorff

*Educating for Life: Reflections on Christian
Teaching & Learning*

What is TfT?



Teaching for Transformation is a design framework for the creation of authentic, formational learning experiences rooted in a transformational worldview. These learning experiences invite, nurture, and empower teachers and students to play their part in God's story through their everyday learning.

The core and essential practices of Teaching for Transformation are used in hundreds of Christian schools worldwide.

 teachingfortransformation.org



"One of the most important aspects of my TtT journey has been developing my Deep Hope for my students. It has helped me get to the heart of what I want to accomplish with my students, and it has given me a framework on which I can build."

Nathan Wiechel, Teacher, Athletic Director
Allendale Christian School

Deep Hope

Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us. This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary. - Hebrews 6:18b-19

We are people of hope. Not wishes or plans. And, more than just hope. Deep Hope.

Deep Hope represents why a teacher answers the call to be an educator in a Christian school. It aligns with the desires that parents have as they enroll their children in Christian schools. It reflects the promises contained in the Christian school mission and vision statement, and points toward participating in God's Story.

And, within Teaching for Transformation, it is the first design question asked: "What is our Deep Hope?"

Deep Hope is the North Star that guides the learning journey within Christian schools.



"As a designer of learning, TtT keeps me from missing the forest for the trees. There are a lot of important, moving parts in education, and TtT helps me navigate and see how it all points to God's story."

Kelly Fish, Instructional Coach, Bellevue Christian School

Our deep hope: that you will see your goodness, and share it



Storyline

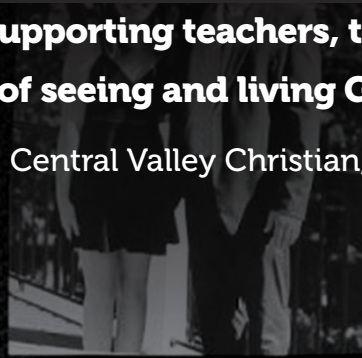
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story. - Psalm 107:1-2a

Within Teaching for Transformation's framework, the learning of every classroom is rooted in a compelling vision of the kingdom. The purpose of the core practice Storyline is to connect the learning and the learners to God's story. Storyline ensures learners **see the story** that invites them to be a part of how God is making all things new. A Teaching for Transformation classroom displays images, student artifacts, and student reflections as evidence of students connecting their learning to God's story of renewal.



"TfT has shaped everything I do at my school- from working with students, to supporting teachers, to communicating to parents - in terms of seeing and living God's story."

Blake Hiemstra, Central Valley Christian, Middle School Principal



I can experience how the head work of history can affect my heart and do restorative work in my relationships




Formational Learning Experiences

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:10

As teachers and students are invited to see God's story, a Teaching for Transformation classroom provides opportunities for learners to **live the story**. In Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx), learners engage in "real work that meets the real needs of real people." Through FLEx, K-12 students are given opportunities to respond to God's call to live actively, restoratively, and creatively in God's story of redeeming love.

As they engage in meaningful school work—school work that is kingdom work—the learner is forming a compelling vision and desire to live restoratively within God's story. Students' engagement and motivation increase, as does their mastery of curricular content.





"Thanks to TtT, our students are more engaged, our teachers are seeing greater fruit from their work, and our students are actually living out and becoming what they are learning."

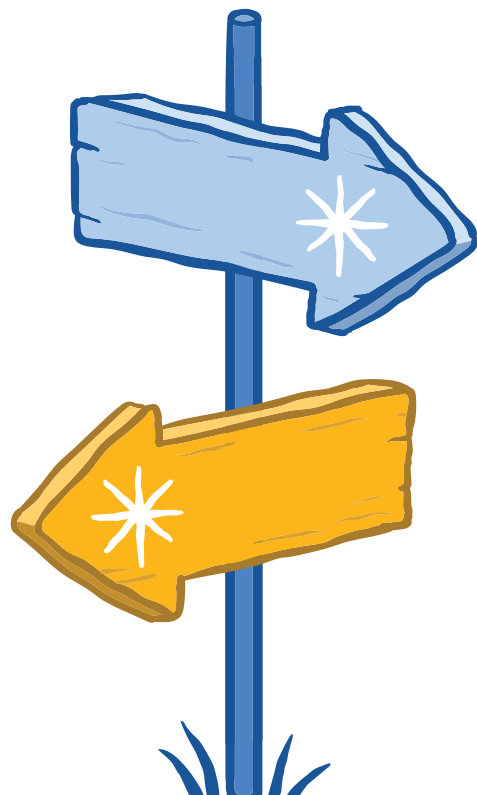
Jay Ferguson, Head of School, Grace Community School

Throughlines

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:17

Throughlines are discipleship habits and practices that form the learners as they transform the world around them. Throughlines help students, teachers, and parents imagine what it means to be a disciple within God's story. The Throughlines articulate a vision for how the school's graduates will live.

As the the learners are provided opportunities through FLEx to engage in "real work that meets the real needs of real people," Throughlines give direction in how to engage—through God worshipping, justice seeking, beauty creating, and so on. The practice of Throughlines shapes the learning and sparks a desire within the learners to actively play their role in the formation of culture. Throughlines ensure the focus of the learning is beyond mere knowledge; they also shape the heart and hands. Throughlines propel the learners toward who they are called to be within God's story.



Throughlines



Learners extend, both in daily tasks and in deliberate times of praise, their words, actions, talents, and thoughts in awe and celebration of God, who is worthy.

Learners recognize stories that invite them to seek truth and participate with the truth by aligning learning with the knowledge and person of God.

Learners delight in God's qualities—his eternal power and divine nature exhibited in what he created.

Learners engage in beautiful work that enriches the world and reflects God's heart for diversity, complexity, and creativity.

Learners seek and find God's fingerprints in the intricate, purposeful design of what he has created.

Learners pursue restorative transformation, seeking to bring wholeness where there is brokenness.

Learners follow the example of Christ's selfless love through exercising kindness, empathy, and compassion.

Learners steward, locally and globally, all God has created by pursuing and practicing new ways to tend and care for his creation.

Learners build communities of grace and purpose, making space for the belonging of others.

Learners mirror God's goodness through who they are and what they do, and delight in the image of God inherent in *all* people.





"I thought TfT would transform my students and my teaching in a positive way. I was not prepared for it to transform my own Christian walk."

Tami Boomsma, teacher, Dutton Christian School

Habits of Learning

Through the practices of Teaching for Transformation, all learning experiences are designed to ensure that teachers and students continuously grow as life-long learners. As Formational Learning Experiences provide opportunities for students to practice living the Throughlines, they also provide opportunities for students to form the following Habits of Learning:



Curious Thinking

We are creative and critical.



Gracious Communicating

We are kind, specific, and helpful.



Joy-filled Collaborating

We are grateful, playful, and reflective.



Courageous Designing

We are resilient and rigorous.

The Tft Journey

Implementing Teaching for Transformation is a formational journey!

We partner with schools through the following stages:



Exploring how Tft aligns with the school's mission and vision for Christian education.



Equipping and empowering staff with design tools and practices to implement Tft.



Providing ongoing support to deepen the Tft professional growth journey.

Begin your school's Teaching for Transformation journey into the rich promises of your school's mission and vision. Your teachers and students are ready to see how their learning equips them to see and live God's story.

To learn more, visit teachingfortransformation.org or connect with Director of Teaching for Transformation, Darryl DeBoer by emailing darryl.deboer@cace.org.





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