

# Palmarium

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.



## Thoughts from our Third President: *Thomas Jefferson*



*Botany I rank with the most valuable sciences, whether we consider its subjects as furnishing the principal subsistence of life & beast, delicious varieties for our table, refreshments from our orchards, the adornments of our flower-borders, shade and perfume of our groves, materials for our building, or medicaments for our bodies.*  
[letter to Thomas Cooper – October 7, 1814].

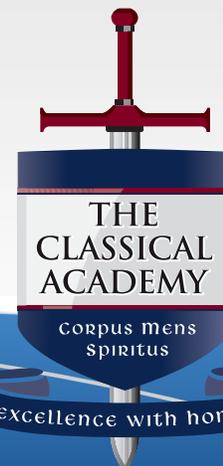
Illuminate, as far as practicable, the minds of the people at large, and more especially to give them knowledge of those facts, which history exhibiteth, that, possessed thereby of the experience of the other ages and countries, they may be enabled to know ambition under all its shapes, and prompt to exert their natural powers to defeat its purposes. [1779].

A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to be always valuable [letter to John Adams – September 8, 1817].

Read good books because they will encourage as well as direct your feelings [letter to Peter Carr – August 10, 1787].

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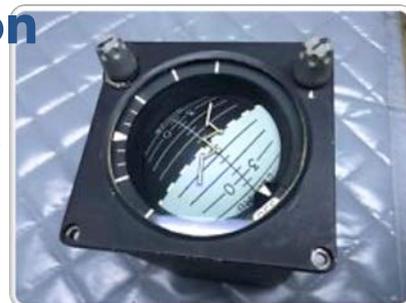
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- Whole Person Focused
  - Relationship Based
    - Classically Oriented
    - Idea Centered

# The ATTITUDE Indicator – A Life Lesson

I spent 15 years of my Air Force career flying helicopters like the one shown in the picture below. Instrument flying was always a challenge in these Vietnam-era helicopters since there was no flight stabilization or auto-pilot type systems on board. When conducting instrument flight the most important gauge is the one pictured to the right, the attitude indicator. The flight manual for the UH-1N states (I keep a copy in my office for reminiscing) - **WARNING:** Do not attempt instrument flight without two operative attitude indicators. It also notes that prior to takeoff, *adjust the attitude indicators* by aligning the pitch and roll adjustment knob reference marks with the zero trim dots (you can see the adjustment knobs on the top of the indicator above and on the right side of the picture in the bottom right). *Failure to properly adjust the attitude indicator at the ground checkpoint prior to takeoff* would lead to devastating results once airborne and in the clouds. In instrument flying a fundamental skill is "cross-checking" the instrumentation. Utilizing a *continuous and logical cross-check sequence* of the attitude indicator and performance instruments is critical to stabilized flight (see images below). As indicated in the cross check diagram, when using the radial cross check method a pilot's eyes spend 80-90% of his/her time looking at the attitude indicator, adjusting one's vision for quick glances at the surrounding performance instruments – but *always cross referencing with the attitude indicator* [for more information copy and paste- [http://www.hatcheraviation.com/uploads:IFH\\_FAA-H-8083-15A\\_6.pdf](http://www.hatcheraviation.com/uploads:IFH_FAA-H-8083-15A_6.pdf)]. "Fixation" on any one instrument – whether the attitude indicator or surrounding performance instruments can also lead to catastrophic consequences – a pilot must constantly and properly utilize the surrounding instruments to ensure stable and coordinated flight. Over the years, I have thought many times about the attitude indicator and proper instrument flight. For me – when I went into the clouds a properly adjusted and monitored attitude indicator, with a strong and methodical cross check, was a "life or death" proposition.



H-1 Attitude Indicator



Figure 6-1. In most situations, the cross-check pattern includes the attitude indicator between the cross-check of each of the other instruments. A typical cross-check might proceed as follows: attitude indicator, altimeter, attitude indicator, vertical speed indicator.

Instrument Cross-Check Diagram

## Personal Attitude Application

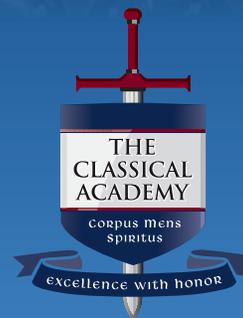
1. Always make sure my attitude is checked prior to starting the day
2. Continually cross-check my attitude with surrounding indicators
3. Do not fixate solely on my own circumstances and attitude
4. My individual attitude is the most important factor in the challenging situations I face each day



USAF UH-1N Helicopter



UH-1N Instrument Cluster



by Wesley Jolly

## TCA Board Approved Common Core Resolution



### The Classical Academy

#### Resolution Concerning Common Core and Assessments

Adopted by the TCA Board of Directors on January 13, 2014.

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Charter Schools Act states “that the best education decisions are made by those who know the students best and who are responsible for implementing the decisions” and encourages “diverse approaches to learning and education and the use of different, proven, or innovative teaching methods;”

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado Charter Schools Act provides “parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of education opportunities that are available in the public school system;”

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado state constitution mandates that Colorado is a local control state, wherein local school boards, including those governing charter schools, are constitutionally provided discretion in setting curriculum for their students and, according to the Colorado Charter Schools Act, allowed to develop “different and innovative forms of measuring pupil learning and achievement;”

**WHEREAS**, The Classical Academy is accountable by law and charter for meeting Colorado State Board of Education content standards and assessment criteria, and has consistently exceeded all such standards since its inception in 1997;

**WHEREAS**, The Classical Academy is rated one of the top schools in the state of Colorado by national and state organizations and has the second lowest college student remediation rate among Colorado high schools as documented in the Colorado Department of Higher Education 2012 Legislative Report on Remedial Education;

**WHEREAS**, The Classical Academy has successfully pursued and proven the value of rigorous academic standards in a classical approach to education that combines academic and character education in pursuit of what is true, beautiful, and good;

**WHEREAS**, The Classical Academy has found the exceedingly expensive, unfunded technological requirements necessary to administer the new testing a major burden for a charter school and a significant departure from our core values, curricular and pedagogical choices, and what we consider developmentally appropriate for early grade levels, with regard to technology use in the classroom;

**WHEREAS**, The Classical Academy has found the exceedingly intrusive testing regimen and its drastic impact on student instructional contact time to be detrimental to the ideals of a classical education;

**WHEREAS**, the Common Core State Standards, and associated testing methodology, while potentially reasonable for some schools to emulate, are not reasonable or philosophically

## TCA Board Approved Common Core Resolution

appropriate at The Classical Academy because our academic standards are more rigorous, more thorough, and more directly tailored to our students' individual needs, as they prepare to become exemplary citizens of the community, state, and nation.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Classical Academy Board hereby expresses its opposition to the imposition of the Common Core Standards Initiative and the mandate by the State Board of Education and the Legislative Bodies in the State of Colorado to impose the required assessments into the academic schedule. Specifically, the major areas of concern for The Classical Academy are;

- the one-size-fits-all implementation methodology,
- the intrusive and costly technological element of the testing,
- the pedagogical concerns of the testing methodology, specifically computerized testing for elementary grades, versus traditional pencil and paper assessments, and
- the impact on the autonomy of charter schools in determining curriculum choices.

Ultimately content standards at a national level will drive conformity, instead of innovation, and mediocrity instead of excellence. The Classical Academy remains committed to its founding principles and core values and while committed to following state requirements, we call upon the Governor of the State of Colorado, the State Board of Education, the Colorado General Assembly, and the Colorado Department of Education to reconsider their actions in view of the stated concerns of The Classical Academy and numerous other charter schools, authorized by the Colorado Charter Schools Act to "create a legitimate avenue for parents, teachers, and community members to take responsible risks and create new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating all children within the public school system."

Signed this 13th day of January, 2014.

  
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 The Classical Academy, Board Chairman

  
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 The Classical Academy, Board Secretary



The TCA board approved the creation of a temporary joint Board and Administration subcommittee to research the affects that Common Core standards will have on TCA educational philosophy and Core Values. The subcommittee consists of the following members: *Steve Palmer* (board), *Dr. Kathleen Harrington* (board), *Executive Director* (rep), *Wesley Jolly* (DAS), *Dorothy Simpson* (CCCI), *Blake Galvin* (CCCI), *Don Stump* (principal), *Sean Shields* (principal), *Brad Miller* (legal counsel), and *Bob Swanson* (recorder). The group developed and presented the attached TCA resolution, plus supporting documentation, to the board at the December 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting. **At the January 13<sup>th</sup> TCA Board Meeting, the board approved the resolution and the process is underway to disseminate the document to applicable state and local leaders. Keep abreast of how you can be involved in the issue via board and Executive Director communications.**



## TCA Evacuation Drill Update

The objective of TCA's Evacuation and Reunification Drill on January 6, 2014 was for all staff to experience the evacuation and reunification process, provide for student accountability, familiarize staff with the site and specific layout of the evacuation location,

exercise ASD20 and TCA roles and responsibilities, and build a team that is confident in handling a crisis - ensuring the safety of all students and staff. All campuses (except the Cottage School Program) participated. Administrators at the Cottage School Program followed up with a walk-through and procedures discussion on January 7. The exercise proved extremely valuable and provided much feedback for TCA and ASD20 to incorporate into our planning processes. TCA would like to thank all the staff who participated with an outstanding attitude, the ADS20 security staff, and New Life Church. The response to the effort from all involved was overwhelmingly positive and a major step forward in our safety and security process.

## TCA President Search – Town Hall

The Classical Academy Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend a Town Hall presentation and Q & A session with the two finalists for the position of President of The Classical Academy. Parents, students, and TCA staff will have the opportunity to observe the two finalists (Dr. Russ Sojourner and Dr. Bruce Speck) in a Town Hall Presentation and participate in a Q & A session conducted by The Classical Academy Board of Directors. The Town Hall and Q & A session will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 10am. There will be a presentation by each candidate in the TCA North gym followed by breakout Q&A sessions beginning at 11am in Rooms 2213/2214 and 3303/3305. Each breakout session will be 30 minutes with each candidate, with the session concluding at 12pm. These sessions are one of the final steps in the President Selection process, beginning with formal interviews and a Board Executive Session on Friday, January 31, 2014. The Classical Academy Board of Directors looks forward to your feedback in this important decision process.

## THE CLASSICAL ACADEMY PRESIDENT FINALIST - BRIEF BIOS

**Dr. Russ Sojourner** currently serves as the Director of Leadership Development at Character Education Partnership based out of Washington, DC. Dr. Sojourner has a BS in Behavioral Science, a MS in Industrial Engineering, and a PhD in Psychology. After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy, Dr. Sojourner served in the Air Force for 20 years, including tours at the Air Force Academy as an Instructor, Assistant Professor, and Associate Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science and Leadership. Dr. Sojourner also served in the Air Force Academy's Center for Character Development, in charge of character and leadership development for the 4,400 member cadet wing. Upon retiring from the Air Force in 2004, Dr. Sojourner became an Assistant Principal and Director of Character Education and Development at The Classical Academy. Dr. Sojourner spent his last seven years at TCA as the Junior High Principal.

**Dr. Bruce Speck** most recently served as the President of Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, MO from 2008-2013. Dr. Speck holds a BA in English from the University of Northern Colorado, a MAE in English from Wayne State College in Nebraska, and a PhD in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to his Presidency at Missouri Southern State University, Dr. Speck served at Austin Peay State University (APSU) for 2001-2008 as both the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Tenured English Professor, and Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Prior to joining APSU, Dr. Speck served at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of English and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1999-2000), and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English (2000-2001).



## Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

### ALT Meetings (11:00 am-12:30 pm):

- Jan 29: ALT Meeting (principals/cabinet only – compensation)
- Feb 12: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- Feb 26: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- Mar 12: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- Apr 2: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- Apr 23: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- May 7: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office
- May 28: ALT Meeting – Blake’s Office

### Due Dates and Upcoming Events:

- Jan 29: High School Course Information Night (6:00-8:30 pm)
- Jan 31: Quarterly Policy Reviews due (see spreadsheet)
- Feb 5: Board Working Session – Strategic Plan
- Feb 10: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Feb 17: **Presidents’ Day** – no school
- Feb 20-21: Colorado League of Charter Schools Conf (DAS)
- Mar 5: Board Working Session - Strategic Plan
- Mar 10: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Mar 12: *Strategic Plan* - ALT input (led by ELT and SLT)

### Mar 24-28: **Spring Break for Staff**

- Apr 9: Board Working Session – Strategic Plan
- Apr 14: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- May 12: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Jun 9: TCA Board Meeting (6:00-10:00 pm)
- Jul 25-26: Annual TCA Board Retreat

*Please stay aware of the due dates listed on this page of the newsletter. It will help us make sure we are up-to-date on all upcoming requirements/suspenses. See compliance and accreditation specifics in the next column.*



## Compliance and Accreditation Corner

Check here for updates on compliance and accreditation items as we move through the year:

### SAC BUSINESS TO COMPLETE:

- SAC minutes to Cheri for Absolutes notebook
- Review of SAC bylaws (Cheri)
- SAC to approve bylaw changes

### ITEMS DUE IN FUTURE:

- **Site Plan Training with D20** in *Spring 2014* (coordinate with Cheri)
- **Final Contact Time** - Cheri will submit *April 30, 2014*
- **Update Site Plans with new D20 Format** - Cheri to complete by *April 30, 2014*
- **Updated Site Plans** due to Cheri by *May 28, 2014*
- **Absolutes Notebook** – Cheri will streamline process & gather appropriate information – due *May 31, 2014*

