

Why I want to be a TCA Director

As my wife and I researched schools for our children, The Classical Academy stood out as a place aligned to our desires for their education. Attending the parent orientation night at Central Campus only solidified our admiration for TCA. It is a rare thing to find an educational institution willing to unapologetically state their core beliefs and be upfront that it is not for every family. That laser focus on a shared, consistent vision makes TCA a very special place.

My own experiences going through the public education system as a student tangibly demonstrated the impact teachers and staff can have on kids, good and bad. That left a passion in my heart to pour into the lives of children, leading to a decision to join the education field early in my professional career.

I spent seven years serving in public education, first as a high school physics teacher and then as a middle school assistant principal, living out that dream. I remember the day survivors of Hurricane Katrina joined my classroom, displaced from their homes and their lives. More importantly I remember one young man coming into my classroom at the end of the year to thank me for giving him the space he needed to process all that happened while still holding him accountable to high academic standards. He needed to be seen as a person first, even when he did not quite fit in with the prevailing campus culture.

The Core Values at TCA begin with the statement that all human beings deserve dignity and respect. In other words, the people—students, parents, families, teachers, staff, and others—who are part of our community are central to accomplishing our mission. While balancing the needs of these varied constituents is not always easy, my commitment as a Director would be to always keep the *people* at the forefront.

Since making the decision to join the private business sector, my passion for equipping people to excel has been at the forefront of my career. In my current role as a Sales Enablement Director in a large IT services organization with over \$4B in annual revenue, I work daily with peers and senior leaders across the globe to drive consensus and support our sales community. At any given time, I have a team of up to thirty new sales people reporting directly to me as they onboard to the company over a period of six to nine months. In supporting and mentoring them I have the opportunity to build the next generation of IT Services Sales as evidenced by the fact that 50% of our Sales President's Club honorees last year were graduates of my program.

I've stood at the front of a classroom and sat across the table from parents to work through issues. Serving as a TCA Director is an opportunity to demonstrate an exemplary life to my children while helping steward TCA into the future. We chose to join the TCA community because we believe in the Mission and Values of the school that have guided it for the last twenty-five years. Fifteen years from now when my youngest child is finishing his senior year, I want those same principles to continue to be our north star.

I am passionate about the tradition of a classical education embodied in TCA's Core Values. Equipping our children with the tools to learn and to think positions them to follow their own inclinations and prepares them to follow a diversity of paths as they mature. Further, I believe in the importance of the time TCA devotes from kindergarten onward in nurturing an active appreciation for the arts. Finally, I am a strong advocate for the partnership that must exist between home and school.

We are TITANS!