

Dear Parents of TCA and TCA Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share why I would like to be a TCA board member. It would be a great pleasure to serve all TCA families and partner with The Classical Academy ensuring we continue the core values and mission TCA was founded on.

My name is Sherilyn Whiting and I have two children that have and are attending TCA. We have lived in Colorado Springs since 1999. My son graduated in the class of 2021 from TCA College Pathways after attending TCA through 11th grade in the traditional school. My daughter is currently a 9th grader at TCA High School. TCA is such a blessing for our family and so many others. I am passionate about keeping TCA counter-culture and true to its founding roots. Over the years, I have been highly involved in the school through volunteering and attending sports and fine art events, all while working part-time throughout my children's school years. It's hard to say what my favorite experiences have been as a volunteer between reading groups, curriculum days, field trips, dances, epic nights, and as a classroom assistant.

A little about how we got to TCA—while I was in college, I was fortunate to learn about Core Knowledge as a student and joined the program, it was a course track focused on the classics. I admire the philosophy of Charlotte Mason, classical/living books, critical thinking, and enrichment curriculum. Like so many of our community, I was concerned with the direction of the public school system using revisionist textbooks, new math, sight readings, and wanted my children to experience classical learning, phonograms, Saxon math, and an immersive education. I couldn't wait for my children to experience the love of learning.

Because I was so excited for our son to go to TCA, I put him on the waiting list when he was six weeks old. We have gone through elementary, junior high, high school, and College Pathways, so I believe I have a wide range of experience with two children to fully appreciate the joys and challenges the TCA community has faced over the years. We have experienced TCA change, grow, and face challenges to continue its mission to partner with parents in education. I want to be a part of assisting the board, parents, staff, and administration to continue our legacy of a school we dearly love.

Now, more than ever, I know the education at TCA is above and beyond most public education options. Our children are being pulled away in every direction from truths and values that our school was founded on. I want to be a voice as a board member to help our school thrive for the current and future generations. I am a passionate believer in the mission, values, and traditions for TCA to be an enriching education for years to come. We cannot take for granted what we have here and I want to be vigilant as a board member to protect it.

I have been a graphic designer for over 30 years. Currently, I work with the Air Force community at a consulting company here in Colorado Springs where I have been employed the last 20 years and have enjoyed this work. My work has given me the opportunity to be part-time, which has allowed me to be very involved in my children's education. With my professional experience, I can bring perspective, share insights, and be a voice for the many challenges our children face today and will encounter when they enter the workforce.

Throughout the years, I have volunteered, attended board meetings and seminars, and was always involved in understanding the current and past issues that affect our children at TCA. In recent years, I became even MORE aware of how blessed and fortunate we are to be at TCA, but there are constant challenges around each corner that we need to be mindful of and engaged in! Each year, we seem to have a new challenge that requires active knowledge, passion, creativity, and awareness to truly listen to our community, staff, administration, and board to keep us pointed in the direction of truth and steadfast values. As the emphasis of cultural influences, overwhelming social media, and outside pressures, TCA plays a pivotal role in our children's lives. TCA's partnership with our parents and teachers in shaping this next generation is critical. I believe I can be a common sense voice to continue our fight in a culture war that is trying to take hold of this generation.

I am passionate for TCA to continue its legacy to uphold truth, integrity, love of learning, and partner with families to assist our students to become extraordinary citizens. I believe it is time to become an active participant for our future generation and The Classical Academy community. We have such an amazing task to stand for our children and the traditions we hold dear. I do not want to sit on the sidelines any longer. We have an incredible community and I would be honored to represent your voices on the board. I humbly ask for your vote.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sherilyn Whiting