

Dear TCA Families and Friends,

TCA's Board of Directors would like to share some highlights from the May 8, 2023 meeting:

Digital Health – Cell Phone Policy

The Board voted to approve the policy prohibiting student use of cell phones during the school day (“bell to bell”) beginning academic year 2023-2024 for all TCA schools K-12. Please click [here](#) for the policy. The Board has collected community feedback during this entire year via our Parent Town Hall, Staff Campus Forums, Parent/Staff School Focus Groups, the Parent Survey and Employee Climate Survey, TCA website comment form, and Board emails. Research on this topic is extensive and definitive, and the Board believes that providing our students with a “Digital Respite” during the school day will 1) Reduce distractions, 2) Contribute to positive and meaningful relationships, 3) Minimize negative mental health impacts, and 4) Develop positive habits that will help our students succeed outside of TCA. It is important to note that students will still retain possession of their cell phones and can access them before and after school, but phones should be powered off and put away once classes begin. Phones that are seen or heard during the school day will be sent to the office – mirroring current procedures in place at our junior high. The Board understands this new policy and associated procedures will be received with mixed reactions from our community, but we believe this is absolutely what’s best for our students and is consistent with our Core Values statement that “*TCA seeks to bring its philosophy to life through: Limiting use of personal electronic devices.*”

Celebrate TCA

We celebrated our recent D20/Air Academy Federal Credit Union Art Show Winners (See Picture above). TCA had 14 winners which included a Best of Show for Middle School and an Education and Administration Center Choice Award. Winners from Central Elementary, Cottage School, East Elementary, North Elementary, Junior High and High School were represented. Each of the artists showed their amazing paintings and sculptures to the Board.

Sunset Amphitheater

Dr. Sojourner shared that negotiations with the Notes Live team (Sunset Amphitheater) have ended. We recently discovered that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers would need to be involved in a years’ long permitting process associated with the proposed bridge/road connecting Spectrum Loop to TCA. Because of that prolonged process, terms favorable to TCA and the surrounding community could not be reached. Accordingly, there will be no immediately foreseeable land sale or lease agreements with Notes Live, and our current parking lots will not be used by the Sunset Amphitheater as they continue to develop other parking options.

Parent Survey

Wes Jolly, TCA’s Director of Academic Services, presented our annual Parent Survey results. Many areas garnered 5-year and 10-year highs of positive results which were truly reassuring and noteworthy. Academic preparation, communication, character, and homework each set five-year and ten-years bests on the Likert scale rating with safety registering second highest over a ten-year period. Parents continue to say “the best thing overall about TCA” is our Teachers and Staff. As noted by Mr. Jolly, “*We are not about undue praise in the good times or excuses in the challenging times – we will use the results both positive and negative to continually strive to better ourselves.*” School principals have already or will soon be providing feedback to their individual communities. We appreciate your time and honesty when filling out the survey.

Adopt-a-School Program

Each of our Directors summarized their efforts this past year at their adopted school. All were thankful to learn more about their school and the variety of events, programs, and accomplishments that each of our schools provide. Our Board of Directors will connect with the following schools for the next school year:

College Pathways – Scott Palmer
Cottage School – Tim Hannan
Central Elementary – Sonya Wittleder
East Elementary – Steve Young
North Elementary – Kelli Hawkins
Junior High School – Kinetta Johnson
High School – James Fradette

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at talk2tcaboard@gmail.com.

Thank You,

Sonya Wittleder
Board Secretary

TCA Board of Directors

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.

975 Stout Road, Colorado Springs, CO, USA

talk2tcaboard@gmail.com

719-484-0091

tcatitans.org