



## TCA PARENTAL LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING



Welcome to The Classical Academy (TCA), a community of learners—including students, parents, faculty, and staff. We hope this letter will guide you in making a wise decision regarding your child(ren's) education. I encourage you to read it thoughtfully and carefully.

Since 1997, families of school-age children have looked to TCA as a skilled and passionate partner in their children's educational journey—a journey toward becoming thoughtful, virtuous, and wise individuals, today and tomorrow. Within this values-centered learning community, TCA's dedicated faculty cultivates and unleashes the natural curiosity of learners through a stimulating, classically inspired curriculum. Our mission statement reflects our uniqueness:

*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.*

As you know, TCA is a public charter school—an alternative public school that you choose—not because of geography—but because you align with its mission, philosophy, and core values. There are benefits and sacrifices for families who choose TCA over their neighborhood public school. TCA receives the same state *per pupil revenue* (PPR) as do all Colorado public schools. However, unlike those schools, our land and facilities must also be funded with PPR. Thus, we have 18% less revenue with which to pay faculty salaries and to support our unique instructional approach.

While our families enjoy the many benefits of TCA's unique educational philosophy, there is a cost. TCA depends on a high level of parental involvement, while offering less than the expected public school amenities (i.e. transportation, state of the art facilities, scope of programs, etc.) TCA also depends on the generous support of the entire community through gifts of time, resources, and charitable contributions. It is assumed that public education is free. In reality, families face additional costs to attend a specially-focused charter school like TCA. It is helpful to remember that private schools of similar quality charge tuition ranging from \$5,000-\$15,000 per student per year.

We invite you to join our TCA family fully informed of the benefits you will receive, as well as the sacrifices you will make. TCA will continue to provide an exceptional learning environment for Colorado Springs' families if those who share the benefits, also share the sacrifice.

**Our Commitment:** *What TCA offers your family . . .*

- a uniquely effective learning environment.
- small class sizes—because we believe that for truly transformative learning to occur, each student must feel welcomed, valued and heard.
- support of your parental role as we partner with you in developing “exemplary citizens,” within the parameters of the TCA Mission Statement.
- a faculty that understands the crucial relationship between the teacher and student. Through nurturing relationship, teachers assist students in developing self-mastery,

sustaining curiosity, and finding their voice. Each day students are guided through the joys and struggles of learning.

- a classically inspired education that invites students to wrestle with great ideas found throughout the disciplines, preparing them to shape the great ideas of the future.
- engagement—through a Socratic process—with the finest minds and the greatest works of music, literature, and art.
- an administrative staff that responds to the TCA community with prompt, professional, and caring service.

We want you to know that you are welcome at TCA.

**Your Commitment:** *What your family brings to TCA . . .*

- a commitment to understand and support our mission, core values, and philosophy of education.
- a willingness to volunteer time, expertise, and resources to support your child(ren)'s classroom and activities, as well as the school as a whole.
- a commitment to understand and support school and classroom policies as described in the TCA Student Handbook.
- A willingness to resolve conflict in accordance with the TCA Conflict Resolution Policy.
- a commitment to support TCA with your tax-deductible charitable gifts through participation in our Annual Giving Fund: *Keeping TCA, TCA*. It takes the involvement of our entire community to keep TCA strong and effective. While we understand that school family contributions may not be equal, equal sacrifice is encouraged. Our goal is 100% participation.

Give securely online at [www.tcad20.org/give](http://www.tcad20.org/give), call the TCA Advancement Office at 488-6296, or email [TCAdvancement@asd20.org](mailto:TCAdvancement@asd20.org).

By signing this *Letter of Understanding*, I acknowledge the commitments of both TCA and my family. While not legally binding, my signature affirms that I have read and understood the above information. (Students in grades 7—12<sup>th</sup> must also read and sign below.)

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Student Names and Grades: PLEASE PRINT

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Student Names and Grades: PLEASE PRINT

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Parent Signature

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Date

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Student (grades 7—12<sup>th</sup>) Signature

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Student (grades 7—12<sup>th</sup>) Signature

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Student (grades 7—12<sup>th</sup>) Signature

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Student (grades 7—12<sup>th</sup>) Signature

**Please return signed form to:**

Kara McIntyre, TCA Registrar  
975 Stout Road, 80921

[TCARegistrar@asd20.org](mailto:TCARegistrar@asd20.org)

FAX: 719-484-0087