



**RESTORING LIBERTY AND OUR NATIONAL
HERITAGE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



An educator and administrator for 36 years, Dr. Goers has in depth experience teaching and designing curriculum for the classical education model. Born, raised, and educated in New York State, Dr. Goers had the privilege of attending highly ranked elementary and high schools, as well as Nazareth College of Rochester for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and Religious Studies. She then attended Brockport State University and Western Governors University for Master's Degrees in Curriculum and Instruction and earned her Doctoral Degree in Transformational Leadership from Concordia University. In March, 2015 she traveled to Finland and Sweden to experience education firsthand with her dissertation cohort and decided to bring those elements to the US. Dr. Goers has

long aspired to design and start a school focused on family values, core virtues, excellence, and successful purposeful living for graduated students. Capstone Classical has been a fifteen year project and vision. She is honored to have the prerogative to see it through to the launch. Dr. Goers has taught all grades except kindergarten and specialized in Language and Science in the upper grades, as well as teaching philosophy, psychology, and forensics for many years. Dr. Goers has served as Curriculum Director, Assessment Director and Teacher Leader Trainer in a number of schools. She is also an Engagement Review Lead for Cognia Accreditation throughout the state of Utah and works part time for Western Governor's University as a Clinical Supervisor for new rising teachers.

Among many other accolades Dr. Goers was honored to be the 2011 Utah Charter School Educator of the Year. Throughout the years she has earned awards in the areas of Science (NASA sponsored teachers), Math (Raytheon Math Hero), English (nationally published students in poetry and prose), and Forensics (nationally placing students in speech and debate). Dr. Goers is a current member of a number of professional organizations, among them are AMLE (Association for Middle Level Education), NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English), NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Math), AAE (Association of American Educators), ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development), and AAUW (American Association of University Women).

Dr. Susan Goers has witnessed the decline in American education, traditional American values, and the acceptance of mediocrity amongst the nation's young adults. It became her passion and desire to be a part of a movement that would radically transform and inspire America's youth, and assist in developing the leaders of tomorrow by instilling the precepts of wisdom, service and honor. Dr. Goers' educational Transformational Classical Model[®] is accomplishing this transformation in scholars in Northern Utah at Capstone Classical Academy.

Embedded in her model are traditions of classical education, Latin, Logic and Rhetoric, Communications, the Bible in History and Literature, speech and debate, and the Constitution. Scholars also understand and practice core virtues such as responsibility, friendship, wonder, prudence, courage, moderation, excellence, and justice. The Transformational Classical Model[®] joins instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue with a rigorous curriculum, thereby restoring scholars to traditional American virtues and liberty.

Through proper education, America's young adults can be equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to revive their nation that was founded on conservative principles of capitalism, empowered liberty, limited government, and American virtues. Dr. Goers and her team of administrators and educators will not cease to ensure that America's youth are educated and equipped to be excellent citizens for generations to come.

If your vision and desire is to see America restored to its founding principles of liberty, justice and freedom, then join Dr. Goers in transforming America's young adults. As the next leaders of this great nation, now is the time to invest in their futures. Now is the time to commit to helping educate scholars in their responsibilities as American citizens. Now is the time to commit to empowering today's youth to be the leaders the nation needs in the future.

Restore America and make it great again, by committing to educate, empower and equip America's young adults to become the next virtuous and conservative generation.

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The rules and regulations protecting the rights of all citizens in relation to religion are outlined in the Establishment and Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment.

Specifically the First Amendment states: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. (U.S. Const. amend. 1)

Educational institutions and secular society will currently lead one to believe that religious liberties are no longer acknowledged in education and that the separation of church and state takes precedence. What some fail to recognize is the Supreme Court specifically said: “Nothing we have said here indicates that such study of the Bible or of religion, when presented objectively as part of a secular program of education, may not be effected consistently with the First Amendment” (Abington Township v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 at 225, 1963, as cited in Feinberg & Layton, 2014 p.8) The ignorance of not understanding a belief system or practices of others causes insecurity which can then result in violent out lashes toward others. Religious and biblical literacy courses help to bridge the gap from uneducated to the understanding of religions and practices, which onward can build compassion in the students of the 21st century (Ghosh, Chan, Manuel & Dilimulati, 2016; Rosenblith & Bailey, 2007; Prothero, 2008). Therefore, it is imperative that educational institutions are aware that they have the Constitutional right to teach the Bible objectively within their schools.

Further, research demonstrated that students who studied the difficult text of the Bible in both historical and literacy applications scored better on standardized exams in both private and public schools (Jeynes, 2009; Jeynes, 2011; College Board, 2015). Through a series of meta-analysis gatherings of 11 studies on this topic, academic achievement was defined in terms of GPA, teacher ratings, class rankings, and test scores (Jeynes, 2009). The results demonstrated a positive relationship between biblical literacy and academic scores. The students were more willing to dig into assigned class readings to find meaning, they understood more, and therefore achieved better GPAs and standardized test scores (Jeynes, 2009; Park, 2009; Regnerus, 2000). Thus, to continue to hide the necessity of having religious and biblical literacy within the classroom is a detriment to our country.

In her Transformational Classical Model (TCM)®, Dr. Goers implements her research of religious and Biblical literacy, the Finnish element of instruction and classical education standards. This model is currently being practiced at Capstone Classical Academy in Pleasant View, Utah. Capstone scholars are required to take courses in communication, logic and argumentation, speech and debate, and must be well versed in courses on the Constitution. Prior to graduation a strong conceptual knowledge of the founding of this country is realized in order for scholars to discuss intelligently what they desire for their personal future and the future of our country. Further, all scholars are required to take Bible and its Influence in History and Literature for two years. This specific curriculum is in addition to the core classics: humanities, classical math and science, and the arts. Capstone believes that these essentials in education will not only serve advanced students, but all students in the academy.

Based on the TCM®, Capstone 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, built upon a solid foundation of knowledge. To this end, Dr. Goers' model, instructs and develops scholars that are not only educated in reading, writing and arithmetic, but are provided experience with reasoning, resiliency, and responsibility. This multidisciplinary learning experience allows scholars' curiosity to be awakened, creativity to be sparked, and scholars will engage in discussion and exploration (UAGC, 2016). CCA's challenge to scholars to set high personal and educational goals, directly contributes to their involvement in the surrounding communities and society as they work towards bettering those around them instead of just themselves.

While Capstone Classical Academy provides the only living model of the TCM® currently, the implementation of the Transformational Classical Model nationwide is at a critical point. Administrators and educators need to understand that rigor, excellence, and developing a well-rounded scholar through the religious and biblical literacies is necessary to bring the United States of America back to its founding principles. Additionally, the educational classics taught with a Finnish element produce the most successful and exceptional scholars that are prepared to make educated, informed decisions as active citizens of the United States of America.

TRANSFORMATIONAL CLASSICAL MODEL IN ACTION

As much as the art of teaching has been transformed, reformed, and reconstructed over the years, a few elements remain the same, one of them being that teachers (Mentors at CCA) are having to prepare scholars for jobs and careers not yet created. Another is that gifted and talented scholars live under a shroud of myths that predetermine many of their futures.

Among the myths are a set of beliefs that the gifted and talented learner can drift through school without any extra help and simply make the grade. Unfortunately, this is not the case as many of these students become bored and then become behavior problems and even drop outs according to the National Association for Gifted Students. These students need to be recognized, and then taught with specific methodologies that help them to achieve their potentials. It is the vision of Capstone's Board to empower these students, along with general population of the school, to be successful in the 21st century environment. Capstone will target the needs of this population by engaging in classical curriculum delivered in a unique style that requires depth of knowledge and not simply facts. Capstone Mentors (teachers) will be trained specifically to address this population each summer through training provided by the Utah Association of Gifted Children.



In the new “human environment” of the 21st century there are elements of the past that are essential for driving forward critical thinkers of the future (Kamm, 2016). Capstone Classical Academy, a charter school serving grades 6 – 12 in Pleasant View, Utah brings back critical elements (tools) that have been lost in education while serving students whose needs are not otherwise being met in our traditional schools (Sayers, 1947).

Where public speaking, reading, writing, and relating to others critically was a mandatory and taught element in centuries past, it has been cast into the shadows at the expense of STEM. Now, we see it coming full circle with the new terminology “SHTEAM” where we are requiring the mastery of literacy standards across multiple disciplines to ensure scholars have these skills once again. SHTEAM incorporates the essentials of Humanities and the Arts to produce a well-rounded scholar able to communicate and succeed in the modern day global economy (Kamm, 2016).

Dr. Connie Kamm (2016) illustrates how the teaching environment can prepare scholars for the careers of the future. Living in an environment where apparently more people are less fearful of dying than of speaking in public, scholars need to be equipped with skills for the global marketplace (Wall, 1977). With the best educators and a collaborative atmosphere where there is an ethos of high expectations and low threat, scholars can take ownership of their learning and chart their own progress as they make their way through their educational journey. Students as leaders, responsible for their own learning, and systems that embrace continuous growth are key for gifted scholars. These students need flexibility to advance at

their own pace. They also need the opportunity for the deep, intellectual thinking that their minds crave through the use of rigor, not busywork. Scholars not identified as gifted and talented, but who are quick to learn and desire depth in their learning can profit from these same methodologies. All students, whether or not they are identified as gifted and talented will be equipped with the tools to succeed.

With the many benefits in the advancement of social media, online learning, and electronic individualized

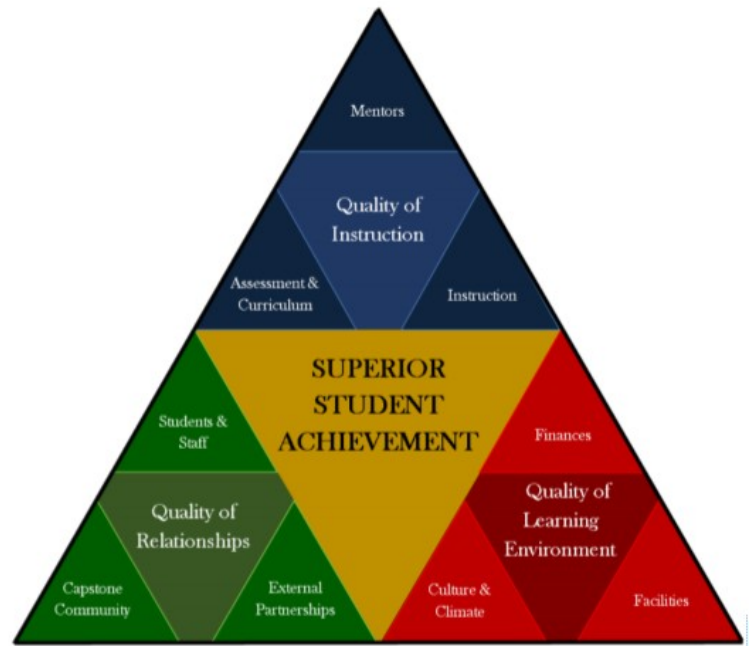
instruction, there are also academic casualties. Specific casualties are a loss of personal connections; everyday communication skills; the ability to express oneself clearly in writing, and even the most essential skills of handwriting and reading. As professionals, we all know that these skills are mandatory as many professions still require the filling out of a paper application for job placement, simply to observe handwriting and the ability to construct meaning in communication through written language. Reading critically is even more crucial since the next generation is bombarded with social media.

Within the technological world in which we live, it is becoming more and more essential that scholars can research, determine viable sources of information, present that information, defend their point of view, and respectfully listen to an opposing view. However, these skills are not inherent; they must be taught. Scholars in every domain need to communicate verbally and in writing, make eye contact, shake a hand, and engage in meaningful discussion. Without these skills he or she may not be successful with professional and/or personal relationships on a daily basis.



CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF THE TRANSFORMATIONAL CLASSICAL MODEL

The first component developed by Dr. Goers for the Transformational Classical Model[®], is the depicted diagram identifying the duties for all involved in the strategic plan and development and implementation of the TCM[®] education. A Board of Directors will regularly assess each of the areas listed based on a mastery model similarly to the mastery model implemented with the scholars.



The Quality of Instruction will be measured based on the quality of the mentors and instructors, the instruction that they offer, to

the scholars and the curriculum and assessments that are used. The Quality of Relationships will be measured by how the scholars and staff view relationships in all aspects of the educational institution. The Quality of Learning environment will be measured by how well the facilities meet the needs, the financials of the school, and the culture and climate of the school.

The second critical component to the TCM[®] is the organizational structure used to empower parents, faculty and staff, and community involvement. Collaboration creates opportunities for scholars, educators, and community members to build a better educational community. Every administrator, faculty, staff, parent and scholar holds a position of importance and respect in the overall learning model. Therefore, an organizational structure as the one diagrammed provides the collaboration element with administrative oversight.



MASTERY MODEL

NO FAILURE (NOT YET THEORY):

- (100%-90%) Mastery (A / 4.0)
- (89%-80%) Proficient (B / 3.0)
- (79%-70%) Approaching Proficient (C / 2.0)
- (69% <) Not Yet (NY / 1.0)

* AYP Required / Mandatory for GPA

The third component is mastery grading. Scholars in this model are graded based on Mastery, Proficient, Approaching Proficiency, and Not Yet. If a scholar has not mastered their material and is struggling in their content, they will have the opportunity to revisit that material through different instruction and potentially a different mentor until they are at least approaching proficiency. Scholars will be graded using exit tickets, projects, quizzes, and summative and formative

assessments. However, throughout the learning process, scholars are expected to advocate for themselves and their education. Any concepts that are not fully understood need to be brought to the attention of the mentor by the scholar.

Based on the diagram provided, Capstone has established the best method for scholars to not only work within the mastery level, but also to succeed through their own learning style. The Transformational Classical Model[®] employs this rigorous curriculum to

master standards, while empowering scholars to take personal and academic risks to understand and challenge their own personal abilities.

Finally in the Transformational Classical Model[®], the family plays a vital role in success due to being the primary educators of their children in the home. To support this element, the TCM[®] incorporates a no homework policy, training scholars to work an eight hour day and produce product during that time. After academy hours are dedicated to family enrichment and activity. TCM[®] incorporates schole, a ten minute journaling in the morning and the afternoon to solidify learning for scholars that they can share at home with family. The term “schole” is actually where we get our word “school”. It means to think in a leisurely way. It allows our minds to relax and process information that we have gained without rushing to the next subject.

MASTERY OF SKILL

APPLIES TO ANY ENVIRONMENT, CONDITION, SITUATION – LIFE LONG LEARNED WILL APPLY SKILLS, NOT NECESSARILY CONTENT.

REMOVES “I WILL NEVER USE THIS, WHY DO I HAVE TO LEARN THIS” SCENARIO
START WITH THE WHY

MASTERY OF CONTENT

POINTED AND NARROW
I.E. 75% ON A MATH TEST. WHAT DO I KNOW, WHAT DO I NOT KNOW? HOW DO I IMPROVE?

TESTIMONIALS

This school has been amazing for my kids, it made them eager to learn and excited about life and their future, it has engaged them and their self esteem has improved tremendously! They learn and discuss important subjects that will prepare them to make important decisions in their future and create civil, respectful and responsible human beings.

I'm so happy that we made the decision to switch to this school!!
- Mariana Conde (Parent)

Capstone Classical Academy has afforded our son the ability to experience a rigorous public education in the classical tradition, without overtaking our family time because of homework. We have been extremely well pleased.
- Barbara Ruiz (Parent)

Our son started attending this school last year in 8th grade and it has been the best decision! We love so many things about this school! No Homework, No Cell Phones during school, high standards when it comes to behavior, Mastery Learning and more! The Mentors are amazing and truly care about each student. The kids are respectful and nice to each other. They have an amazing music program and Ballroom Dance program. The whole atmosphere is just refreshing compared to huge and overcrowded public schools. This is a great option if you are looking for something different than what your child is getting now at a public school!
- Brittany Bennett (Parent)

"I've never gone to charter schools before, and when I was signed up for Capstone I was very nervous. I almost didn't want to come.

I was still nervous my first day, but when I came Dr. Goers was so sweet and friendly.

In my last school I was bullied and even got in a fight with a boy because he threatened me and said he was going to kill me. My last school did nothing about it, they put him back in school so I was forced to move.

Now that I'm at Capstone my math has improved so much and I feel more confident about myself.

I want Capstone to stay open because I know that Capstone is so much more than just a charter school -- Dr. Goers, our principal, is directly involved with the kids. Come visit our school for yourself!

Capstone is a life changing school, not only academically. I'm not just saying that because I attend this school, I truly mean it.

-Maya (Scholar)

I love seeing my child excited to learn! This school has exceeded our expectations. If you are a parent and you want an excellent education for your child, then CCA is it! Please Check it out. You must visit the school to really appreciate what it has to offer. You will be as amazed as I was.
- Tracy Cross (Parent)

"This school is very important to me because without it I wouldn't have been able to grow and become the person I am today. I have had a lot of opportunities to explore my own interests in unique ways."
- Jayda (Scholar)

"This year, I made the really difficult decision to stop homeschooling altogether. I've homeschooled all but one of my boys since Kindergarten.

Honestly, I didn't feel like I had great options. I am super convicted about the benefits of homeschooling. I felt like if I put my kids in school I was failing and not giving them the best.

But... I was burned out.

A friend told me about a new charter opening up in Pleasant View. I thought I'd go to an info meeting with an open mind.

I was able to meet the director of the school, who had homeschooled her own kids when they were young. She talked to me for quite a while, describing her philosophy for this new school and what it had to offer.

You guys... mind. blown.

For the first time ever, I felt like my kids would be getting WAY better than what I could ever offer at home.

- Rigorous Classical Ed curriculum
- Based on the Finnish model
- NO HOMEWORK!
- NO phones- this is huge for me!
- FREE charter school
- Kids work at their own pace
- Non traditional classroom
- Small classes
- Focus on virtue- the kids are required to take prudence and chivalry!

If you live anywhere near Ogden and you don't feel your child is getting the best at their school - classes are too big, there are bullies, the education isn't great, or the influence of obnoxious kids is affecting your family, check out Capstone!

-Stephanie Mitchell (Parent)

A dedicated staff, a culture of respect and discipline, family oriented, virtues, safe and accepting, challenging with high expectations, and a palpable air of excited learning! Seriously, what more could you ask for? How about the same classical curriculum that the top high school the state offers? Yep, this school offers what the silicon slope kids are getting! Plus some!

But the best thing for me is my child is happy and itching to learn again! I love this school!

- Chris Ruiz (Parent)

It is my daughters first year attending CCA. To say Alyssa struggled through 7th grade is an understatement. She did not adjust well to a 7 period daily schedule. She was also just another student, lost in the chaos. We were at a loss as to how to help her be successful, and realized that keeping her in her home school would not be a viable option. I did a lot of research and found Capstone Classical Academy. We sat down as a family and made the decision to enroll Alyssa in CCA. Alyssa is a bright, articulate young woman who now has the opportunity to excel. The scholars at Capstone Classical Academy are introduced to the Finnish Model of learning. This model is adapted for each scholar base on their level of mastery. All of their instructors are knowledgeable, caring, and invested in each scholar. Alyssa is now excited about school again. If you're looking for an excellent school for your child, please consider Capstone Classical Academy.

-Carrie Hill (Parent)

I love the quality of education. Scholars are expected to work hard in school in exchange for no homework! They promote Virtues rather than values. Love this school!

- Yvette Scott (Parent)

**As Cavaliers, we endeavor to recognize and
pursue truth,**

beauty and goodness.

**Cavaliers celebrate virtue in scholarship,
relationship, and citizenship.**

**We are scholars who take ownership of and joy in
learning.**

**Cavaliers value our responsibilities above our
rights.**

Deo Confidimus

**Cavaliers love, respect and protect one another,
striving to be our best, do our best and give our
best to the world in mind, body and spirit.**

Deo Confidimus!

We are the Cavaliers!

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