

Core Principles Held to be Non-Negotiable by the LCS Board of Directors



1. Role of the Executive Director of Education

- The Executive Director of Education is the intellectual academic leader of the school with a philosophical understanding of classical/liberal education.
- The Executive Director of Education implements curriculum as defined by the classical-liberal tradition. The school's academic practices are defined by Mr. David Yu's essay regarding the great works, great teaching, and great character.
- The Executive Director of Education makes final decisions on curriculum, accountable to the Board of Directors.
- The Executive Director of Education or designated employee of the board, while chiefly the academic leader, is also responsible for the discipline, moral culture, operations and financial priorities of the school.

2. School Culture

- LCS is an open enrollment school with no enrollment criteria outside of statutory and contractual requirements.
- The LCS core virtues are taught, enforced, and modeled by all faculty and staff. Students are to emulate these virtues.
- LCS upholds the established dress code.
- Discipline policies are designed to prevent interruption of teaching and learning as well as reinforce the core virtues.
- LCS classrooms are open for observation at any time with the exception of TCAP testing and the first few weeks of school.

3. Education

- Our educational philosophy is expressed in the writings of E.D. Hirsch Jr. and James Kilpatrick (*Why Johnny Can't Tell Right From Wrong*).
- LCS resists grade inflation and social promotion. Mastery of core subjects always takes priority. Latin is taught.
- Literacy is taught through an explicit phonics program. Math is taught conceptually using the Socratic method.
- Standardized tests do not drive our curriculum.
- Part of LCS' education model includes departmentalization in its elementary grades as defined in Mr. David Yu's essay.

4. Teachers

- The Executive Director of Education employs teachers based on their mastery of an academic discipline, their ability to convey knowledge to young people, and their capacity to maintain order and decorum in the classroom. Licensure is not a condition of employment.
- LCS teachers are treated as professionals. Their professional development includes training prior to the start of the school year to be coordinated by the Executive Director of Education.

5. Board of Directors

- Our budgeting philosophy is conservative. We do not expend funds until we know they are in our possession.
- The board governs by policy and not by procedure unless specifically requested by the Executive Director of Education.

LCS Adopted May 9, 2013