

Palmarium

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.



Thoughts on Education from a Founding Father: *John Adams*

from *Dissertation on the Canon and Feudal Law* 1765

“It should be your care, therefore, and mine, to elevate the minds of our children and exalt their



courage; to accelerate and animate their industry; to excite in them an habitual contempt of meanness, abhorrence of injustice and inhumanity, and an ambition to excel in every capacity, faculty, and virtue. If we suffer their minds to grovel and creep

in infancy, they will grovel all their lives.”

John Adams

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excellence with honor

- Whole Person Focused
 - Relationship Based
 - Classically Oriented
 - Idea Centered

The Purpose of the *Palmarium* Newsletter: A Work in Progress

As I thought about a method to get information out to the Academic Services staff and to the TCA academic community I wanted to create a forum for an exchange of ideas, as well as a centralized point for information flow in certain areas such as: Compliance and Accreditation, CCCI (Character, Culture, Curriculum, and Instruction), Student Support Services information, upcoming due dates for DAS staff, and other pertinent topics of interest.

The title has evolved since the idea first came to me. As you can tell from the rest of this page the theme of *masterpiece* is prominent. I wanted to evoke the idea that as we pursue truth, beauty, and goodness in assisting parents in the development of exemplary citizens we are in part striving to create a great work – a masterpiece. What better title for an academic newsletter at a classical school than to use a Latin title. So I turned to none other than one of our Latin experts, Bleys Kueck. I asked Bleys for a word in Latin that means “masterpiece” and after discussing the obvious phrase that most have heard of “magnum opus” and a less known alternative “palmarium” I decided to go the less known route.

For me it fits well . . . “exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all built upon a solid foundation of knowledge” . . . deserving of a palm.



Etymology of a Title

pal'ma:ri.um

literally “*deserving of a palm*”;
a *masterpiece*; something
that deserves a prize



Yes, it sure has been a long, hard climb
Train wheels runnin' through the back of my memory
When I ran on the hilltop following a pack of wild geese
Someday, everything is gonna be smooth like a rhapsody
When I paint my masterpiece . . .

Bob Dylan, *When I Paint My Masterpiece* (1971)

The Blank Canvas

by Wesley Jolly

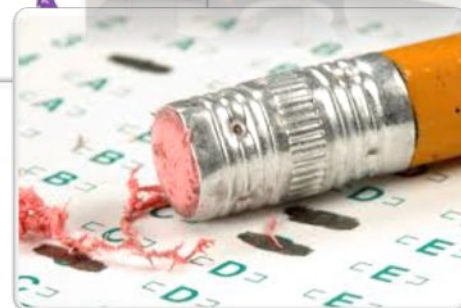
For about the past five years I've had a blank canvas hanging from the plantation shutters in my study. That blank canvas greets me each morning as I have prepared for a new day – with students, with family, friends, or just a quiet day alone. The canvas serves as reminder for me that each morning brings a new day, a fresh start – that I begin again with my class, my friends, family, and associates. I may continue a work that has been in progress for years, adding new layers, or begin anew with a fresh palette. There are a few questions I need to consistently ask myself at the end of each day. Is the painting I've created one that I'd want to sign my name to? Is it a work of beauty and goodness? Am I slowly creating my masterpiece so that one day when I look back I'll smile in rhapsodic reflection . . . ?

Common Core and State Testing Reference

“... teachers should not be forced to spend the academic year preparing students to fill in bubbles on standardized tests. [We] will improve the assessments used to track student progress to measure readiness for college and the workplace and improve student learning in a timely, individualized manner.”

President Barack Obama

from the Obama-Biden plan on the Change.gov website:
http://change.gov/agenda/education_agenda/



Listed below are numerous links for the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) website and other sites concerning content standards for our state, the Common Core initiative, and PARCC testing. More links to come next issue.

Colorado Department of Education Standards Links

CDE Main Page <http://www.cde.state.co.us>

Content Areas and Standards

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/contentareas>

(note: in each content area if you click on the discipline the first item in the drop down menu on the left links the state standards for all grade levels within the subject area either in word or pdf format)

Colorado Department of Education Testing Links

General Assessment Information

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/generalinfo>

Fact Sheets

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/resources>

PARCC Assessment Information at CDE Website

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/newassess-parcc>

Colorado Science & Social Studies (includes draft versions of the testing frameworks for 4th, 7th, and 12th grade Social Studies and 5th, 8th, and 12th grade Science tests – under Frameworks section)

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/newassess-sum>

Common Core Standards – Varied Links

Common Core: State Standards Initiative Main Page

<http://www.corestandards.org>

Why Common Core is Gutting Educational Freedom

(59 minute video; mentions Colorado)

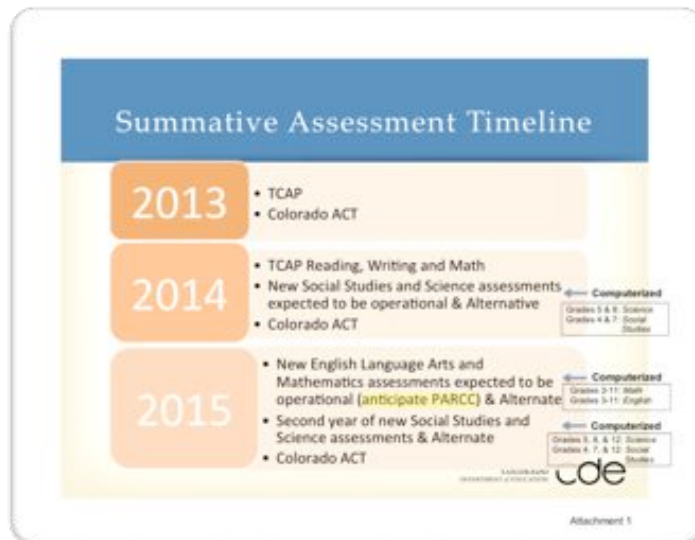
<http://www.cato.org/multimedia/events/why-common-core-gutting-educational-freedom>

PARCC Testing Links

The PARCC Assessment Main Page (see links to left of page)

<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-assessment>

At the September 9th TCA board meeting the board approved the creation of a temporary joint Board and Administration committee to research the affects that Common Core standards will have on the TCA educational philosophy and Core Values. The committee consists of the following members: Steve Palmer (board), Dr. Kathleen Harrington (board), Executive Director (representative), Wesley Jolly (DAS), Dorothy Simpson (CCCI), Blake Galvin (CCCI), Don Stump (principal), Sean Shields (principal), Bob Swanson (recorder).





Upcoming DAS Meetings and Due Dates:

ALT Meetings:

- Sep 18: ALT Working Session – “Touchstones” (CCCI)
- Sep 25: ALT Meeting (11:00-12:30) – Blake’s office
- Oct 2: ALT Working Session (TBD); complete “Character Strengths/Virtues Test” prior to this date
- Oct 30: ALT Meeting (11:00-12:30) – Blake’s office
- Nov: updated meeting schedule will be posted in October

Due Dates:

- Sep: site visits (as scheduled individually w/ DAS)
- Sep 20: new policy review process – quarterly system (DAS)
- Sep/Oct: secondary teacher eval methods (principals/SEP); discussion item at SLT meetings
- Sep 20: CPI Physical Restraint training
- Sep 26: Strategic Plan – ALT input (led by ELT+SSS)
- Oct/Nov: HS course approval process (principals/SEP)
- Oct 2: complete “Character Strengths/Virtues” test
- Oct 4: snow day contingency plan (secondary principals)
- Oct 10-11: parent-teacher conferences
- Oct 14-15: teacher in-service; CEP-culture (CCCI/principals)
- Oct 17: TCA Monitoring Report to D20 (DAS)
- Oct 30: ALT evaluation process review (DAS)
- Nov 26: Strategic Plan – ALT input (led by CCCI)
- Dec 9: new course approvals presented to board (DAS)

Please stay aware of the due dates listed on this page of the newsletter. It will help us make sure we are up-to-date on all upcoming requirements/suspenses. See compliance/accreditation specifics in the next column.



Compliance and Accreditation Corner

Check here for updates on compliance and accreditation items as we move through the year:

ITEMS DUE IN SEPTEMBER:

- Analyze **SPF reports** from D20
- **Establish SAC** by Sep 30
 - e-mail current SAC bylaws to Cheri
 - e-mail list of SAC members to Cheri
 - e-mail SAC meeting dates to Cheri
- **Update Site Plan / SIP** by Sep 30
 - use last year’s data as starting point
 - place into *new non-Cambridge format*
 - submit to Cheri for consolidated submission to D20
 - include tactic of “implementing the board’s strategic plan into the site planning process” – completion date of May 31, 2014.
- **Absolutes / Accreditation Notebook** – Cheri will streamline the process and gather appropriate information

ITEMS DUE IN OCTOBER:

- See next issue of *Palmarium*

