



**JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN – SIXTH GRADES:** *HLS Faculty*

There are separate tracks for each grade, from junior kindergarten up through sixth grade. Master teachers from Highlands Latin School will present the curriculum and how they teach it. This is an opportunity to spend two days with teachers from around the country who teach the same grade you do and learn all the ins and outs of the Classical Core Curriculum. Plenty of time will be given for questions and comments. See the schedule for details about all the subjects covered.

*\*Those who have attended these sessions at previous conferences for the grade they teach are encouraged to attend a grade level above or below in order to better understand what their students can be expected to have accomplished and what they need to be prepared for. Alternately they should consider the “K-12 Common Themes” track and upper school sessions of interest.*

**K-12 COMMON THEMES:** *Jon Christianson*

This one-day seminar selects a universal theme—in this year’s case, *love*—and traces it throughout the whole of the literature included in the Classical Core Curriculum. In this way, the seminar will provide teachers at every point in the curriculum with an increased sense of the whole within which the literature selections they teach are a part and will enable them to integrate their students’ knowledge with greater skill and effectiveness.

**CLASSICAL COMPOSITION (REFUTATION & CONFIRMATION – COMMON TOPIC):**

*Abigail Johnson*

Enter the world of the *progymnasmata* for the upper school. Abigail Johnson will begin with a brief overview of the program, but she will delve deeply into the fourth and fifth stages, which are ideally taught at the beginning of upper school and serve to round out the essential minimum of a truly classical approach to composition.

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE:** *Maggi Windhorst, Kyle Janke, & Chelsea Murray*

Students are just beginning to taste classic literature in the lower school, but they don’t really delve into the Western canon until upper school. Maggi Windhorst will deal with helping students transition from the grammar school to the reading of more advanced literature in middle school, while Chelsea Murray and Kyle Janke will demonstrate how to moderate the Socratic discussions in which a well-trained student can participate.

**EPICS:** *Rob Lewis & Ethan Gotcher*

Most students at classical schools read the *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, and *Aeneid* at some point in the course of their studies. But since numerous literary references are derived from these works, the most prudent approach to reading the great books will place these classics as early in its progression as it can. This session will include a sample lesson of both Homer and Virgil and provide insight on how to bring these authors to life for students at the beginning of their upper school years.

**LOGIC:** *Rob Lewis*

A language-based study of logic is essential to a liberal arts education and to learning how to think. Rob Lewis will provide an overview of each text in the logic curriculum and explain how to teach both Formal Logic (*Traditional Logic I and II*) and *Material Logic* by walking through key lessons.



**RHETORIC:** *Aaron Harrison*

Rhetoric is the culminating linguistic art in the trivium. Aaron Harrison will present an approach to persuasive public speaking that is thoroughly steeped in ancient sources and explain how being rooted in the art of rhetoric contributes to the development of good character.

**CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS:** *Martin Cothran*

The study of logic, metaphysics, and rhetoric in the first three years of high school rightly culminates in the holy task of defending the foundational claims of Christianity from its modern opponents. Drawing on (his hero) G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, and Peter Kreeft, Martin Cothran will explain the goals of a senior year apologetics course and unpack the key ideas that classical schools ought to impart to their students before sending them off to college and beyond.

**GREEK TRAGEDIES:** *Jon Christianson*

After studying the great epic poems of Greece and Rome, students at classical schools should be initiated into the second great literary form that the classical period gave us—the play. The Greek tragedians in particular will prove indispensable to students by enriching their understanding of and appreciation for that great English playwright, William Shakespeare. Jon Christianson will discuss the form and content of the tragedies in addition to providing a model lesson drawn from one of the plays.

**CICERO & CITY OF GOD:** *Jon Christianson & David Charlton*

A classically educated student should be introduced to some of the great nonfiction texts of the classical period in addition to its literature. There is perhaps no better nonfiction text for American students to start with than Cicero's *Republic and the Laws*, which exercised tremendous influence on the formation of the U.S. Constitution. And while students' minds are contemplating political theory, the time is right to introduce them to the foremost Christian contribution to political philosophy, Augustine's *City of God*. Jon Christianson and David Charlton will introduce these great works and provide instruction on how to teach them effectively.

**THE DIVINE COMEDY:** *Kyle Janke*

If there is one book that will put to use all of a student's past knowledge of classical and biblical literature, it is Dante's *Divine Comedy*. Dante's masterful poem is perhaps the most difficult literature selection students will have yet encountered, and thus it requires great skill on the part of the teacher to guide them into its riches. Kyle Janke will equip teachers for this worthy task by orienting them to the work's structure and themes and by providing a model lesson from some of his favorite cantos.

**UPPER SCHOOL MATH:** *Cindy Davis et al.*

More than half of the liberal arts are mathematical rather than linguistic. Time-tested mathematics instruction is therefore essential to a classical school. Cindy Davis will present an overview of the Highlands Latin School math philosophy, while other presenters will discuss the suggested progression in greater detail and provide model lessons of the various courses.

**UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE:** *Cindy Davis et al.*

Cindy Davis will present an overview of the Highlands Latin School philosophy for science instruction in seventh grade and beyond. Other presenters will cover the suggested progression for science in the upper school. Model lessons will be taught from various science disciplines, along with a sample chemistry lab.



**MEDIEVAL HISTORY:** *Dustin Warren*

Perhaps no other historical period occupies so incongruous a place in the minds of us moderns as the Middle Ages. Castles and knights continue to excite our imaginations and pervade our stories, even while the period as a whole is so often subjected to our most unreflective scorn. Dustin Warren will help teachers to avoid either romanticizing or demonizing the medieval period by sharing his keys to a balanced interpretation and will provide a model lesson from one of his favorite chapters in *A History of Medieval Europe*.

**MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY:** *Dustin Warren*

The Renaissance and Reformation gave rise to the modern age, which has in turn given rise to revolutions, global exploration, industrialization, and much more. In this session, Dustin Warren will survey the topsy-turvy landscape that is modern European history, highlight the key takeaways he seeks to impart to his students, and model a lesson from one of his favorite chapters in *A History of Europe in the Modern World*.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – CURRICULUM OVERVIEW:** *Tanya Charlton & Matt Dickie*

Every administrator needs to communicate to teachers and parents why certain subjects are taught in specific grades and why others aren't. Questions always arise—why this book and not another? Come hear what is behind the Classical Core Curriculum.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – HISTORY OF MEMORIA PRESS & HIGHLANDS LATIN SCHOOL:** *Leigh Lowe*

How did we get here, and why are we doing what we're doing? While she was alive, HLS founder Cheryl Lowe would give a speech every year that reminded the school's faculty and families of these two things. In this workshop, Leigh Lowe will keep the tradition going and provide administrators with an exposition of Highlands Latin School's guiding principles and a model speech that they can imitate in their own contexts.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – INTEGRATING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Cheryl Swope*

Axiomatic to classical education is the idea that the content and methods employed ought to correspond to a right understanding of the nature of the child. Yet in the main the classical education movement has struggled to apply its robust understanding of human beings to the education of children with special needs. To be sure, the challenges of integrating students with special needs can be daunting, but Cheryl Swope will equip administrators with sound strategies for taking them on.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – K-12 ADMISSIONS:** *Shawna White & Kelly Booker*

Crucial to a school's growth, culture, and academic performance is a well-conceived and executed admissions plan. In this workshop, Shawna White and Kelly Booker will walk administrators through the HLS admissions process from start to finish, providing insight on school tours, entry tests, family interviews, and more.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – GRADING POLICIES & SYLLABI:** *Kelly Booker, Matt Dickie, & Jason Borah*

How do you guide teachers into a balance between grading objectively and recognizing the individuality of each student? What directives ought you give to teachers about weighting assignments, penalties for late work, etc.? And what are the essentials for upper school syllabi? The HLS administration team will share advice on these matters of school academics.



**ADMINISTRATIVE – CLASS SCHEDULING:** *Kelly Booker & Shawn Wheatley*

Once you've established your teachers, class rosters, curriculum, and extracurriculars, you need to sort out how best to put them all together. Always a logistical challenge, class scheduling is not without its philosophical moorings. Kelly Booker and Shawn Wheatley will team up to discuss both the principles and practicalities of this annual puzzle.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – HIRING & FIRING:** *Shawn Wheatley*

To a large degree, the people teaching your students define what your school is going to be. Thus, hiring is one of the most important decisions an administrator has to make. Shawn Wheatley will draw on his years of experience and share advice on how to hire and, when necessary, fire.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – COLLEGE ADMISSIONS:** *Zachary Miller & Chelsea Murray*

For good or ill, your school's reputation in your community will be affected by the colleges your students are admitted to. Zachary Miller, a member of the admissions department at Hillsdale College, will give administrators a sense of what top-tier classical liberal arts colleges are looking for in undergraduate students. Chelsea Murray will then share insight on how to help upperclassmen through the college admissions process.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – STANDARDIZED TEST PREPARATION & ADMINISTRATION:**

*Brian Lowe, Matt Dickie, & Kelly Booker*

Without a doubt, standardized testing has often inflicted harm upon education in America. Still, classical schools need to legitimize their philosophy to their community by some means to which it can relate, and standardized test scores are perhaps the foremost of those means. The HLS administration team will give an overview of the standardized tests taken at HLS, when they are taken, and how to best prepare for and administer them.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – TEN THINKERS SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SHOULD KNOW:**

*Martin Cothran*

Although the daily demands of running a school can be stifling, classical school administrators must carve out time to continue nourishing their minds and deepening their understanding of classical learning. In this workshop Martin Cothran will introduce ten thinkers that administrators ought to know about and read.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – PRIMARY SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS & PEDAGOGY:**

*Michelle Tefertiller & Tara Luse*

Teacher observations are among an administrator's most important tasks. In this workshop, seasoned primary school instructors (and observers) Michelle Tefertiller and Tara Luse will help administrators conduct their observations more effectively by giving them a clearer picture of what excellence entails in the primary classroom. They will also furnish administrators with pedagogical strategies that are tailored to the primary years, which they can in turn pass along to their teachers.



**ADMINISTRATIVE – GRAMMAR SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS & PEDAGOGY:**

*Kelly Booker & Tanya Charlton*

Teacher observations are among an administrator's most important tasks. In this workshop, seasoned grammar school instructors (and observers) Kelly Booker and Tanya Charlton will help administrators conduct their observations more effectively by giving them a clearer picture of what excellence entails in the grammar school classroom. They will also furnish administrators with pedagogical strategies that are tailored to the grammar school years, which they can in turn pass along to their teachers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – UPPER SCHOOL OBSERVATIONS & PEDAGOGY:** *Matt Dickie & Paul Schaeffer*

Teacher observations are among an administrator's most important tasks. In this workshop, seasoned upper school instructors (and observers) Matt Dickie and Paul Schaeffer will help administrators conduct their observations more effectively by giving them a clearer picture of what excellence entails in the upper school classroom. They will also furnish administrators with pedagogical strategies that are tailored to the upper school years, which they can in turn pass along to their teachers.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – TRANSITIONING TO CLASSICAL:** *Kathy Becker & Arica Prado*

Becoming a classical school when your school has had a different (and possibly opposing) educational philosophy is a challenge. Often it is a multi-year process that involves curriculum changes, pedagogical differences, and the school-wide buy-in of a new vision. Kathy Becker and Arica Prado will share what they have learned helping schools transition to classical education.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – SCHOOL CULTURE:** *Leigh Lowe, Tanya Charlton, Matt Dickie, & Kelly Booker*

Certain aspects of a classical Christian school's mission are better caught than taught. Therefore, classical school administrators must think carefully about the kind of culture that will best support the school's mission and how to build it. The parent-to-school partnership, faculty and student conduct, school traditions, extracurriculars, daily prayers, the role of a house system, and service in the community all play key roles in the development of a culture that promotes the cultivation of wisdom and virtue.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – BOARD TRAINING:** *Martin Cothran & Kathy Becker*

Most schools have boards, and people on those boards often need regular training on the mission and vision of a distinctly classical school. If a board goes awry, the health of the whole school is at stake. Martin Cothran and Kathy Becker will provide strategies for helping classical school boards hold on to the school's vision and will outline a few key parameters for a healthy board-to-school relationship.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – LEGAL & FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** *Brian Lowe*

Every school, and especially a start-up school, needs to think deeply about legal contracts, tuition costs, and budgeting. Brian Lowe will address the decisions Highlands Latin School has made in order to be viable and sustainable long term.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (ADF):** *Sherri Houston*

Leaders at Christian schools need to be aware of the ways that their freedom to operate in accordance with historic Christian beliefs is coming under threat. And they need to consider how their stated policies and documentation may be making them vulnerable to legal action. Our partners with the Alliance Defending Freedom will discuss these matters and share how they can be of service to Christian schools.



**ADMINISTRATIVE – SAFETY & SECURITY:** *Brian Lowe*

No administrator enjoys thinking about the various ways evildoers of this world might seek to leverage the school to bring harm to children. Brian Lowe will discuss the policies and strategies utilized at Highlands Latin School to promote campus safety.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – CLASSIC LEARNING TEST:** *Jeremy Tate & Rachel Greb*

The ACT and SAT have been ubiquitous in American education for some time (until 2020 anyway). Our partners at the Classic Learning Test will explain the history and philosophy of these exams, the alternative option they've developed, and the landscape for college-entrance exams in general in a post-Covid world.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – ACCREDITATION:** *Martin Cothran, Tanya Charlton, & Ethan Gotcher*

Partner members of the Classical Latin School Association are eligible to apply for accreditation. This workshop will unpack the standards, process, and benefits involved in the CLSA's official stamp of approval.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – Q & A PANEL:** *Martin Cothran et al.*

Purposely slotted near the end of the conference, this is the ideal time to ask any outstanding questions from other administrative sessions or about administrative topics we didn't have the chance to cover this year. The panel will include presenters with a diversity of expertise, so whatever your question might be, someone will have a thoughtful reply.