

# Teaching for Transformation (TFT)

Teaching for Transformation is about students learning how to play out their part in God's story. We believe that we are all part of a big story that started a very long time ago, which is still continuing today. His story is important to understand so we can play our part in it. We want to develop students' skills, knowledge and abilities so they may live a flourishing Christian life. It is our aim is to provide many learning experiences that will help students to develop their gifts and to practice using those gifts to play their unique part in God's amazing story. There are three pillars that support us in teaching students about God's kingdom and their role within it.

**1. Storyline** - Every GCS classroom has a powerful and compelling vision of the Kingdom that creates a longing and a desire within every student to play their part in God's unfolding story of creation - fall - redemption - restoration.

A storyline helps a teacher to articulate how learners see themselves living in God's story. It is a lens through which the class looks through as they examine each topic in their learning and where they can see God's design and purpose, how the fall has impacted it, acknowledge the redemptive work of Christ and join in the invitation to join God in his restoration of creation.

So what is a storyline? A storyline is a powerful and compelling vision of the Kingdom that creates a longing and a desire within every student to play their part in God's unfolding story of creation - fall - redemption - restoration. A storyline is an image of what flourishing looks like "to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all" (James Smith, You are What You Love, page 2). A storyline attracts and draws us towards it and as a result we desire to work towards that goal.

**2. Biblical Throughlines** - Every GCS teacher actively invites and engages students to develop biblical characteristics, helping them to understand what their roles are and what their calling is.

**God Worshipping**: We will see that worshipping God is about celebrating who God is, what God has done and is doing, and what God has created. It is literally about standing in awe and wonder of God and His promises. We see this worship as a way of life.

**Idolatry Discerning**: We need to learn to "read" a worldview by asking questions about what is being portrayed in regard to culture, values and belief systems. Through the curriculum we will be challenged to identify, understand and expose the idols of our time and times past. We want to test ideas against the Biblical story and be truth seekers and speakers.

**Earth Keeping:** We will respond to God's call to be stewards of all of creation. We need to reclaim and relearn how to respectfully treat the universe and all things contained in it. It is about the challenge of living lives that balance our wants and needs with those of other people, people living in other areas of the world and those still to come. This is a matter of respecting God and it is our responsibility.

**Beauty Creating:** We will create beauty that praises God and enriches our world. Creation shouts that our God loves diversity, complexity, and creativity. As image bearers of a creative God, we will glorify and praise God by creating that which is beautiful and pleasing to Him.

**Justice Seeking:** We will act as agents of restoration. The world is not as God intended it to be and we must learn to see the injustices - but it can't stop there! We need to act as agents of restoration by both identifying and responding to injustices. We must take on this responsibility and rejoice in the glimpses of the kingdom we get from this task.

**Creation Enjoying:** We will celebrate God's beautiful creation and give testimony to the presence of God in creation. We need to stop, look, and be amazed! We must create opportunities to see the beauty, delicacy, oddity and miracle in everyday things. Ordinary things become extraordinary when seen in a new way!

**Servant Working:** We will learn to serve others by working actively to heal brokenness and bring joy and shalom. We need to look for ways to affect change, improve situations for people, build community, and meet needs. We are called to take action; using the gifts of ideas, materials, skills and awareness that God has given. Being "salt and light" means our faith needs to be expressed in our work.

**Community Building:** We will be active pursuers and builders of community, in our classrooms, in our neighborhoods, and in the global village we are a part of. We need to learn to pursue shalom - to be active and eager examples of peace-filled communities. Our school will be a community of grace where we will learn to walk and work together in peace.

**Image Reflecting:** We bear the image of God in our daily lives. Being an image bearer isn't something we do, it is deeper than that. Image bearers is what we are. We reflect God's image and we learn to see God's image in others. The more Christlike our actions are, the more clearly Christ's light shines in the dark parts of this world.

**Order Discovering:** We see God's fingerprints all over creation. When we read the creation account we read a story of God creating order out of chaos. There is a purpose in God's creation and we are able to discover this amazing order within creation. One of the inescapable conclusions for everyone must be "Wow! God had an amazing plan for all of this!"

**Faith Nurturing**: We will understand that living in God's story means that we pursue an intimate relationship with God by reading the Bible, praying and worshipping Him. As we learn more about who God is, who we are, and his rescue plan, our relationship with him grows. As well, we are called to be faith nurturers; children of God who model a life of faith and invite others to live in God's story.

**3. Formational Learning Experiences** - Every Gateway Christian school classroom must provide authentic (real work, real problem, real audience) opportunities for students to practice (habits) living the Kingdom story.

- The purpose of these learning experiences is to give students opportunities to practice (habits) living the Kingdom story. We have begun to focus more intentionally on formational learning experiences, what they are and how they are a high impact teaching strategy. In the next few months teachers will be given opportunities to develop and practice these authentic opportunities for students to participate in experiences that we hope form their hearts for Christ and his Kingdom. It is our hope that these formational experiences will bring students into a sense of wonder about their part in God's story, helping to move them from 'What', 'So what', to 'Now what' as we continue to ask, "how now shall I live?" in response to our new learning within our subjects.