



Standards of Belief and Practice for a Nova Teacher

Nova Classical Academy believes that the key to the classical model hinges on the teacher and his or her relationship with the student.¹ In addition to possessing an aptitude for teaching, the Nova teacher must be a master of virtue, both moral and intellectual.²

Successful implementation of a classical curriculum requires faculty who are invested in the tradition and who can envision the benefits for themselves and for their students.³ A teacher in the classical tradition must understand the following: 1) that his or her job is to cultivate minds; 2) that his or her job is to model what is best from the classical tradition; 3) that his or her job is to know how to discuss all of the most important ideas in a regular fashion; and 4) his or her job is to have scholarly aptitude.⁴

▪ Cultivate Minds:

- Maximize intellectual abilities by producing students who possess the capacity to learn and to adapt what they've learned to all sorts of circumstances and challenges;
- Constantly attend to students' habits of mind;
- Key component to cultivating minds is the curriculum and its goals.⁵
- Place a high degree of confidence in each student's mind

▪ Keepers of a Tradition

- Understand yourself to be keepers of the tradition by immersing yourself in it; the liberal arts and sciences tradition is an inherited tradition of wisdom;
- Work through a measured study of the Trivium in order to have an accurate picture of the goal towards which students are headed; the more each teacher knows about grammar, dialectic and rhetoric, the more natural the liberal arts environment will feel to each student;
- Point students to dependable sources of wisdom.⁶

▪ Centrality of Ideas:

- Truth, goodness and beauty should find expression in every aspect of the curriculum;
 - That truth, beauty and goodness are objective values that can be discovered;
- The most important ideas that determine the quality of our lives must be discussed regularly;
- Teach students' by allowing them to see us already engaged in the dialogue;
- Help students connect the ordinary to the sublime that define the meaning of existence.⁷

▪ Scholarly Aptitude:

- Faculty for whom transcendent ideas and their historical consequences are a high priority;
- Possess a firm grasp of known facts.⁸
- Never stop learning about the disciplines we teach.

¹ Michalak, What It Means to Be a Teacher at Nova Classical Academy

² *Id.*

³ Littlejohn and Evans, *Wisdom and Eloquence*.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*