

# See the Story. Live the Story.



Teaching *for*  
**TRANSFORMATION**

at



AlLENDALE CHRIStIAN School



The primary goal of Christian education is the formation of a peculiar people—a people who desire the kingdom of God and thus undertake their life's expression of that desire.



James K. A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom*

// It is nothing but a pious wish and a grossly unwarranted hope that students trained to be passive and non-creative in school will suddenly, upon graduation, actively contribute to the formation of Christian culture. //

Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Educating for Life:  
Reflections on Christian Teaching and Learning*

# What is TfT?

Teaching for Transformation is a design framework for the creation of authentic, formational learning experiences rooted in a transformational worldview. These learning experiences invite, nurture, and empower teachers and students to play their part in God's Story through their everyday learning.

The core practices of Teaching for Transformation are practiced in over 100 schools worldwide to create learning experiences that empower teachers and students to explore their role in the kingdom story. Allendale Christian School is pleased to be a member of the TfT network of Christian schools. We joined this movement in 2018.





# Deep Hope

We are people of hope. Not wishes or plans. And, more than just hope. Deep hope.

Deep hope represents why we followed the call to become teachers at Allendale Christian School. It aligns with the desires that you, as parents, have when you enroll your children in our school.

And, within Teaching for Transformation, it is the first question we ask ourselves when we design learning experiences for our students: "What is our deep hope?"

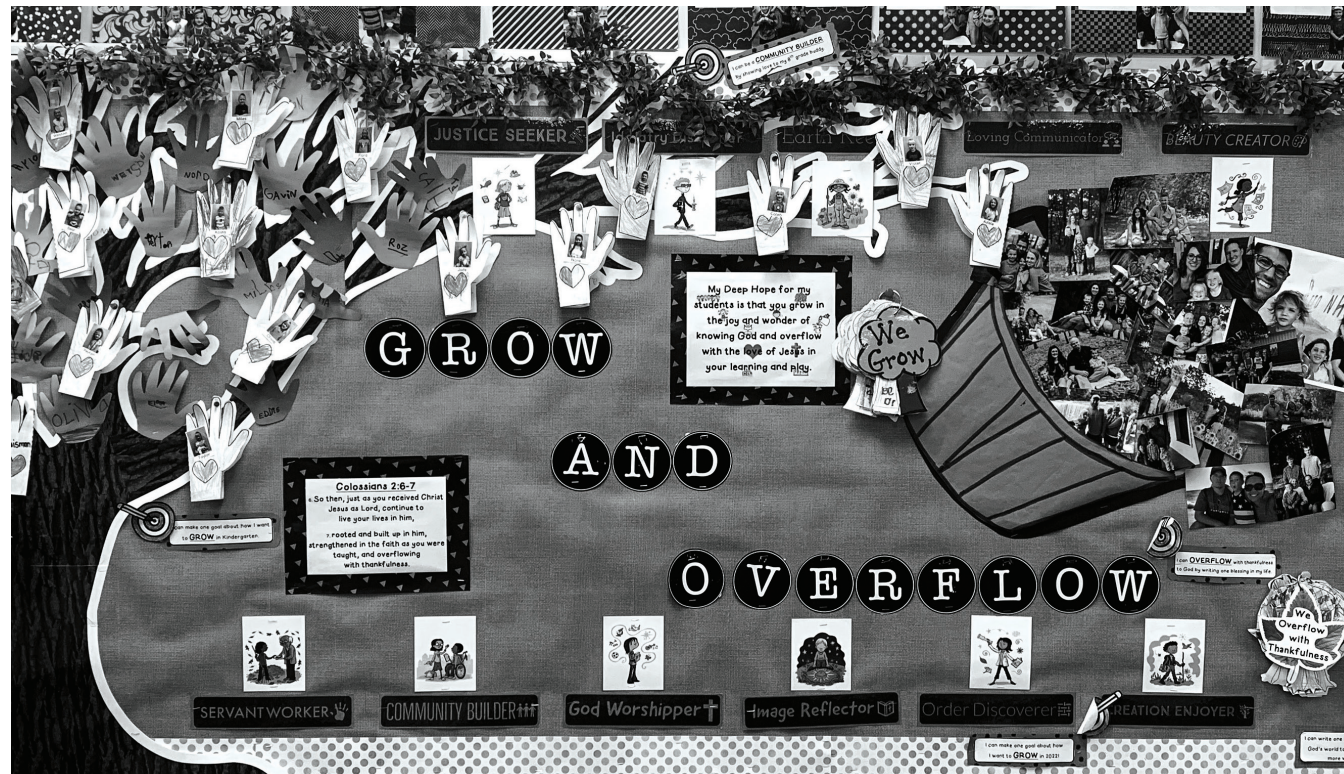
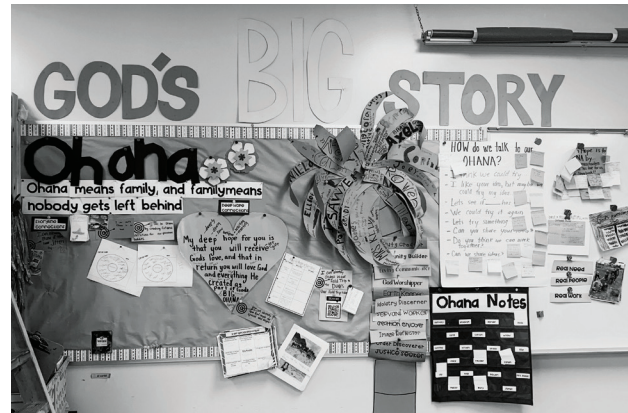
It is our North Star that guides us on our learning journey at ACS.



**"My teacher has a deep hope for our class. It made me feel special when she read her deep hope to us for the first time."**

~ Second grade student at ACS





# Storyline

Within Teaching for Transformation's framework, the learning of every classroom is rooted in a compelling vision of the kingdom. The fundamental purpose of the core practice storyline is to connect the learning and the learners to God's story. Using language and imagery that connects both to the curriculum and the kingdom story, storyline ensures learners [see the story](#) that invites them to be a part of how God is making all things new. A Teaching for Transformation classroom displays artifacts and evidence of students connecting their learning to God's story of renewal.







**"I love that FLEx experiences help me set  
their feet into action...being active participants  
in restoring God's Kingdom!"**

~ ACS Teacher

# Formational Learning Experiences

Once teachers and students are invited to see the story, a Teaching for Transformation classroom provides opportunities for learners to **live the story**. Formational Learning Experiences (FLEx) are opportunities for the learner to engage in “real work that meets a real need for real people”—opportunities to practice living the kingdom story. Students from preschool through 8th grade are given the opportunity to respond to God’s call to be active, restorative, and creative in God’s story of redeeming love. It is through the practice of engaging in meaningful school work, school work that is kingdom work, that the learner is forming a compelling vision and desire for living within God’s story. As engagement and motivation increase, so does a student’s mastery of curricular content.







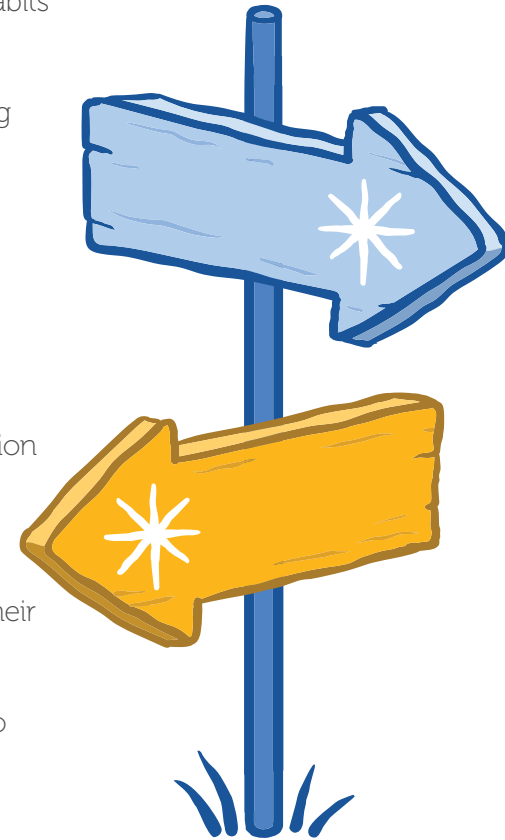
**"Thank you for implementing TtT at ACS! One of my favorite parts of TtT are the Habits of Living. They have given us a language to use at home with our kids. For example, I can tell them as children of God, we are called to be Community Builders. I just love it!"**

~ ACS Parent

# Habits of Living

At ACS, Formational Learning Experiences push beyond mastery of curriculum. They form habits of living and shape who we are. Habits of Living are discipleship habits and practices that both form the learners and transform God's world around them. Habits of Living help students, teachers, and parents imagine what it means to be a disciple within God's story. They articulate a vision for how their school's graduates will live.

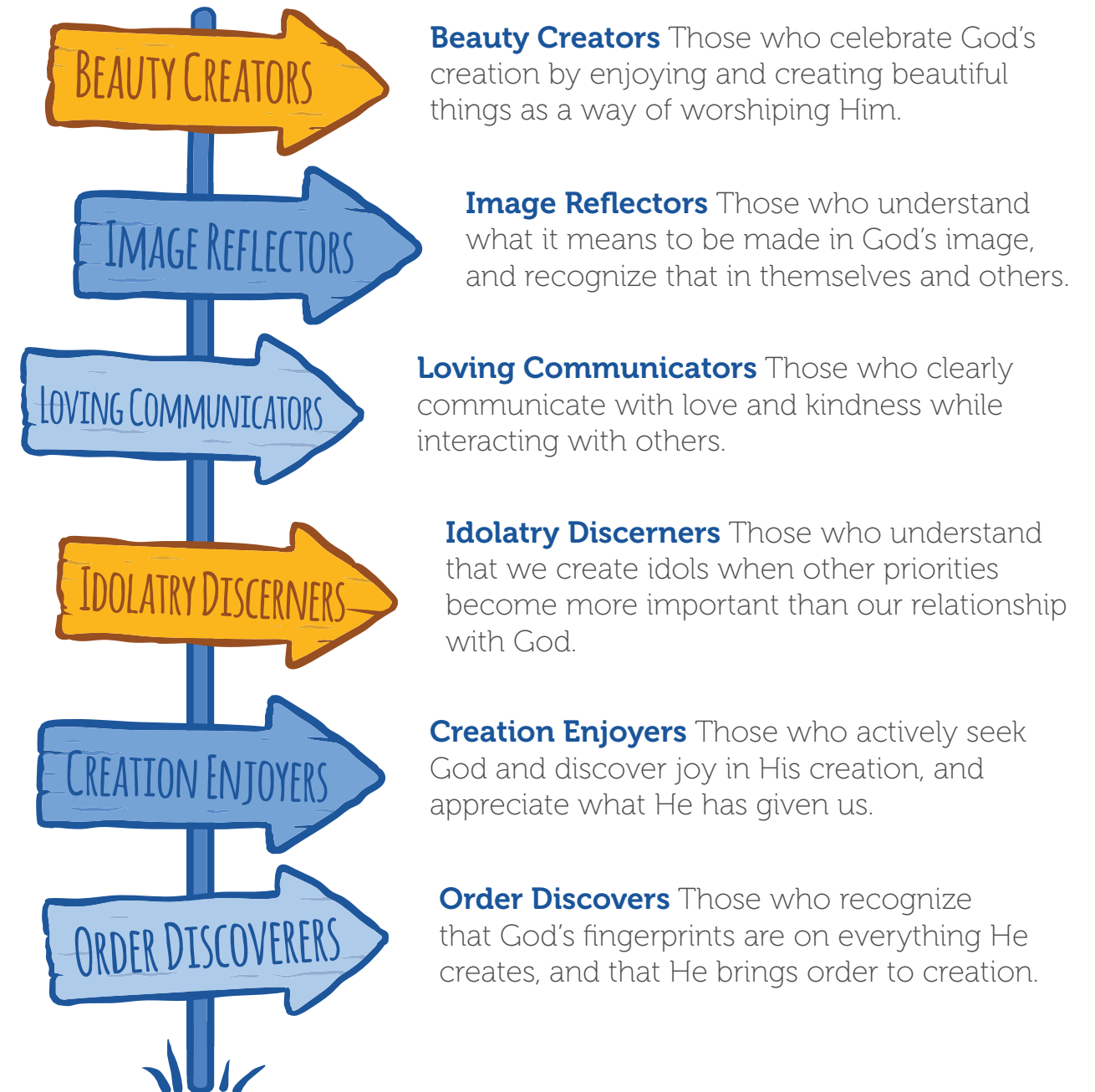
So, as the learners are provided opportunities to engage in "real work that meets real needs for real people," they are given direction in **how to engage**—as God worshipers, justice seekers, beauty creators, for example. The practice of Habits of Living shapes the learning and sparks a desire within the learners to actively play their role in the formation of culture. Habits of Living ensure the focus is not just about what the learner should know; they propel us to educate for who the learner is called to be within God's story.





# Habits of Living

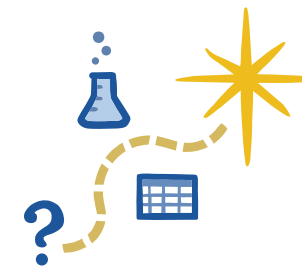
At ACS, we call these Habits of Living.





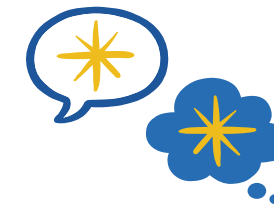
# Habits of Learning

At ACS, all learning experiences are designed to ensure that teachers and students continuously grow as learners—life-long learners. As Formational Learning Experiences provide opportunities for students to practice living the Habits of Living, they also provide opportunity for students to form the following habits of learning:



## Curious Thinking

We are creative and critical.



## Gracious Communicating

We are kind, specific, and helpful.



## Joy-filled Collaborating

We are grateful, playful, and reflective.



## Courageous Designing

We are resilient and rigorous.



**"TfT has inspired me, rejuvenated me, given me a framework for helping my students consider their faith and relationship with God, and allowed me different and fresh ways to share my own faith with my students. I love it!"**

~ ACS Teacher



# Join us on this TFT Journey

**"My deep hope for ACS students and staff is that they will love God and know that God loves them, that they will be passionate learners who seek to know and serve Him, and that they live in to their role in the restoration process of God's Big Story. We would love to have you join us at ACS as we live out our roles in God's Big Story!"** ~ Brian Koetje, Head of School

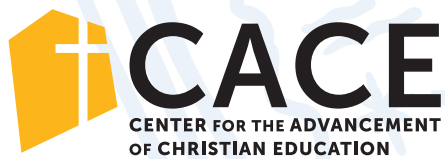
Contact Brian Koetje at [bkoetje@allendalechristian.org](mailto:bkoetje@allendalechristian.org)  
or **616.895.5108** for more information or to enroll!



## **Allendale Christian's Mission**

"Equipping students academically, spiritually, and socially  
to gratefully serve God in all aspects of life."





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[cace.org](http://cace.org)