



The Teacher's Playbook: Practical Pedagogy for Classical Educators with Jerilyn Olson

Introduction: Intro to Framework

Outline:

Background

- Her career goal was to be a lawyer until she was asked to teach in a small school similar to her high school.
- She has been teaching for more than 15 years and works with Great Hearts, a network of classical liberal arts schools in Arizona and Texas
- Currently she is working to support teachers in the classroom.

Concept of great teaching

- It is impossible to bottle what makes a great teacher
- The best way to learn how to teach is by watching and listening to experienced teachers.
- Since it is impossible to actually see all the good teachers and their practices it is necessary to move from oral tradition to having written documentation
- The course provides vision is for practice framed in classical rhetoric to help develop practical wisdom.
- The course will also provide advice for leaders to help shape and grow their teachers.

Classical Education and teaching

- Ideas in the course have all come from the past and previous teachers
- The point of classical education is that you do not need to grab on to what is new but you can glean the best from the past.
- Teachers have the responsibility to learn and practice which can be done through:
 - Conversation
 - Reflection
 - Practice
- It is ok for teachers to do things differently and to use that to start conversation of how to best serve our students

Factors that Influence Student Success

School Resources
Curriculum

School Philosophy
Discipline System

Teacher

School leadership
Student

School Culture
Parent support

- Teacher is at the center and the quality of the teacher is the most important factor.



- The most important relationships are between the teacher and the curriculum and the teacher and the student

Rhetoric

- Rhetoric provides a framework to organize ideas and speaks to the core relationship at the center of education
 - “Isn’t the art of rhetoric, taken as a whole, a certain guiding of souls (Psychagogia) through words, not only in law courts and other places of public assembly but also in private? (Plato, Phaedrus)”
- The speaker must attend to the:
 - Speaker
 - Audience
 - Message
- The role of the speaker is to move audience through logos(wisdom) to action
- Teacher works to persuade students to see what is true, beautiful and good, and to pursue it for themselves
- Teacher must attend to:
 - Ethos: Their own beliefs, character and virtue
 - Logos: Confirm that the content is good and sound
 - Pathos: The student’s habits, affections, will and emotion.
- Charlotte Mason states that education is the science of relations; “not just relation oof the child to the content but also to the teacher who is leading them

Lessons in series

- Will discuss teacher formation (planning), instruction and culture
- Teaching is the act of practical wisdom not just philosophical or theoretical.

New Teachers

- New teachers often have difficulty connecting theory and practices.
- There is a need for strategies that can be immediately implemented
- Teacher handbooks include ideas and strategies but are they good and trustworthy
- Education conferences tend to focus on what is new instead of looking back on tested and lasting practices.
- We need to connect both to see what has worked and how we can improve.

Experience teachers

- There is the need to understand the principles behind their strategies so they can adapt to new situations, students or new content

Leaders

- Leaders need to see the common thread of classical principles in their school and also recognize that they may look different in individual classes

Goal of sessions

- To give principles behind the strategies and to see examples of how it can work in the classroom