



FLATIRONS
ACADEMY
Comprehensively Christian

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AUGUST 28, 2026

EDUCATING FOR FREEDOM

STRATEGY #1 Christian Liberal Arts Education - *Libertas Per Disciplinum*



Greetings Flatirons Academy Families,

Thank you for taking the time to read the introduction to our strategic plan in [last week's Bison Post](#). My goal in that communication was to provide a theological foundation for our strategic plan.

This week, and over the following four weeks, I will provide more specifics on each of the five strategies that will guide our school moving forward.

The core function of our institution is to educate young people. That sounds simple enough, but even a cursory glance through the educational landscape reveals that there are many competing ideologies and methods running schools, all of them promising maximal benefit with minimal cost.

To operate any school, you must first decide what a human is, how and what they learn, and how to live a blessed life. These are big questions.

Not answering these questions creates chaos in systems and individuals. Answering them incorrectly invites tyranny and bondage. I don't have the space in this communication to discuss every mistaken idea in our modern school systems. Instead, I hope to stir your interest with a vision of how we seek to answer these questions from a biblical worldview and how it plays out in the lives of our students.

First question - What Is A Human?

The Bible teaches us that a human is a heart, soul, mind, strength complex. As an image-bearer of God, a human is designed to have dominion - to rule and reign over God's creation. A human is designed to worship the one true God. And while we continue to experience the effects of sin and death in this life, we have a sure hope to dwell with God again and co-labor with Him. A human is an unceasing spiritual being with a destiny in God's great universe with important work to do in this life.

Second question - How Do People Learn?

First, God made a knowable universe, and He made people with the ability to know things. He has revealed Himself through His creation. He has revealed Himself through a book. He has revealed Himself through history. Jesus modeled and invited His disciples into new ways of thinking and being. Jesus had multiple vocations. Jesus is the smartest person who ever lived, and He had the ability to engage in sophisticated discourse across any social barrier. And, He called us to learn by imitating Him.

Third question - What Should People Learn?

We agree with the historical approach to Christian education that understands the developmental levels commonly referred to as grammar, logic, and rhetoric. We agree with the western approach to philosophy that guides us to test and know what is real, how to know things, ethical reasoning, and identifying and celebrating beauty. We believe that knowledge is not merely the thoughts in our head. Knowledge is also embodied by our actions and lived out in the stories we tell ourselves. And above all, we agree with the Psalmist who teaches us the blessing of meditating on the truth of Scripture day and night.

Fourth question - What Does A Blessed Life Look Like?

The blessed life is one that is transformed by the beauty of the Gospel, guided by the Spirit, in awe of the Father. The blessed life is pervaded by love for each other and God. The blessed life is a life of freedom. Freedom from the bondage of sin. Freedom to rule and reign over creation as we were designed. Freedom for setting others free.

This is why we deliver a Christian Liberal Arts Education for our students. Originating in ancient Greece, the term *Artes Liberales* means skills for a life of freedom. The early church adopted this framework as they built schools and monasteries. The Founding Fathers of the United States knew that this type of education was essential to the success of the grand experiment of our nation.

We have added the phrase *Libertas Per Disciplinam* to acknowledge the reality of how this freedom is achieved - Freedom through Discipline. Freedom to reign comes from the daily discipline to deny ourselves, engage in deliberate practice, in community, over time, powered by the Spirit, with steadfastness through suffering.

And while this approach has been proven over millennia, it has been watered-down, distorted, and co-opted in much of American education. You may have even earned a degree at a school calling themselves by this name without any of the beauty or discipline described above.

So here a few more descriptions of our educational model that you will find counter-cultural:

- Liberal Arts Education only makes sense if it is Christian. Christ holds the center.
- Digital technology has very little to offer in the growth and development of K12 students. And, it has the potential to do great harm.
- Books matter. God gave us a collection of writings. We should learn how to read well.
- We believe there is wisdom in embracing historical thought as we face modern problems.
- This is for everyone. Specialized programs based on individual interests are counter-productive.
- We care more about growth than performance. We actually mean this when we say it.
- We care more about the type of person you are becoming than the job you can get.
- Sustained attention is a priceless skill for all of life.
- Growth is often slower than we would like. Character formation takes time.
- It is good to embrace a season of preparation before launching into adulthood. The goal is not to finish as fast as possible.
- What you choose to do in your free time is the measure of your education.

Therefore, our first strategy is to not become another school that waters down the great gift of Liberal Arts. Instead we seek to be a leader in the design, implementation, and effectiveness of our educational model.

Strategy #1: Christian Liberal Arts Education: Libertas Per Disciplinam

The primary function of our institution is to provide a transformative Christian Liberal Arts Education that unifies knowledge through Christ, expands human capacities, and results in life of following Jesus and doing the things He said to do

1.1 Develop a definition of Christian Liberal Arts Education suited to the unique vision of Flatirons Academy and our cultural context. We aim to develop a definition that is clearly stated and easily understood by our families, teachers, and community. This definition provides insight into how we achieve our expected student outcomes.

1.2 Continue to evaluate all K-12 curricula and programs for their alignment with our Christian Liberal Arts Education philosophy.

1.3 Increase student engagement in visual, musical, and rhetorical arts through additional space and programs.

1.4 Write and implement an Artificial Intelligence Use Policy that aligns with our Christian Liberal Arts Education and maintains a value proposition for families.

1.5 Build on current Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to advance success in desired educational outcomes. We desire to be accountable to see our mission lived out in the lives of our students and graduates through a series of checkpoints that inform our programs toward continuous improvement.

If you are interested in a deeper dive into the beauty of our educational model, I highly suggest you read [*Liberal Arts for the Christian Life*](#), edited by Davis and Ryken. I know it has been helpful for me.

Thank you for reading, and look forward to sharing another strategy with you next week.

Go Bison,

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Flatirons Academy