

## **Teaching for Transformation and The Kingdom of God**

Teaching for Transformations is a framework for classroom and school operation that encourages project-based learning and thereby discipleship opportunities. For example, a second-grade class may visit a local food bank to help stock shelves and distribute food during an open pantry day. That experience can then be drawn upon to write thank you letters to the food bank, including all grammar related lessons for that class. The class can also provide a presentation to the class and parents as to their personal experience while serving at the food bank along with Biblical connections to the experience. The integration of local missions (projects) and the learning that comes from that is bountiful.

Hallmarks of the Teaching for Transformation model include:

Deep Hope – Birthed in prayer, this statement is the North Star that guides a teacher and classroom through the course of the year.

Story Line – Essentially the Story Line is the same as the Deep Hope though framed in a simple manner to connect with the Learning Targets on the Story Board.

Story Board – The Story Board is like a road map of the school year posted on a bulletin board consisting of Learning Targets, student artifacts, pictures of students at work, etc. The Story Board is a pictorial representation of the class's learning journey being developed through the course of the year. Students, teachers and administrators can reference the board when describing the activity and learning occurring in the class. The board is relatively bare at the beginning of the year and full at the end. Some items may cycle on and off the board while others remain there the entire year. Throughlines are also included on the Story Board as different activities may be illustrated by Throughlines.

Throughlines – Throughlines represent the Holy Spirit in action in the lives of students. For example, a project-based learning experience (FLeX Project) may be designed to assist in the stewardship of creation. That Throughline could be entitled "Creation Steward." Another FLeX Project may focus on caring for the elderly. That Throughline may be entitled "Compassion Deliverer."

Habits of Learning – There are four Habits of Learning:

Curious Thinking, Gracious Communicating, Joy-filled Collaborator, and Courageous Designing.

FLeX Projects (Formation Learning Experience) – FLeX Projects are designed with the class Deep Hope in mind. These learning experiences can be within or without the school walls. More than a field trip, FLeX projects provide an opportunity to engage with the larger community with the hope of performing real work for real people while meeting a real need. The beautiful work (final product) from such an effort often reaches and benefits an audience larger than just the class.