

# A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Anyone who has ever attempted to teach understands that one does not become an expert overnight. It takes time, commitment, humility, and rigorous development to become an excellent educator. At Classical Charter Schools, we've meticulously crafted an approach to teacher development that allows us to keep two incredibly important promises. The first, to families, that their child will receive an excellent education every day, in every classroom. And, the second, to teachers, that their instruction will lead to scholar success even as they continue to develop their craft.

Our approach was built by teachers and guided by the belief that teachers are professionals capable of making strategic and autonomous decisions that drive their own growth. By maximizing the impact of our professional development, we're maximizing the impact of our teachers and making good on our promise to deliver an excellent education to all scholars.

## CLASSICAL

## OTHERS



### ONCE A MONTH

At Classical, we believe in purposeful, strategic decision making. Our professional development sessions are facilitated once per month to limit the strain of childcare on families and allow for more instructional time, more time to plan sessions, and more time to implement new strategies.



### ONCE A WEEK

Many schools, both district and charter schools, facilitate weekly professional development sessions. Often, these sessions occur either for a few minutes or few hours each week.



### DIFFERENTIATED

We trust teachers to drive their own professional growth. So, rather than implementing a one-size-fits all approach, we provide our teachers with a variety of professional development options each month and they choose the sessions that are targeted to their professional goals.



### STANDARDIZED

For the most part, in typical school settings all teachers engage in the same sessions together, regardless of their experience level or individualized learning goals. This results in sessions often being helpful for some, but not all participants.



### CONTEXTUALIZED

Professional development sessions are facilitated by the leaders and specialists who work at Classical every day. Instructional coaches lead sessions related to curriculum & instruction. Deans, data, and special education specialists lead sessions on their area of expertise. Leaders communicate strategies they know, firsthand, what will work best within the context of Classical's specific structures and challenges.



### GENERIC

In many schools, the people leading professional development sessions can vary from curriculum designers, to principals, to external consultants who have limited teaching experience. As a result, the relevancy of information can vary and what might work in theory, might not be applicable to each teacher's day-to-day classroom needs.



### NETWORK-WIDE

Every teacher within the Classical network comes together for professional development sessions. This fosters community and results in shared benefits & greater consistency.



### SCHOOL-BY-SCHOOL

In most networks and districts, professional development is facilitated separately by each school. This creates an added lift for leadership teams, limits the benefits of shared knowledge, and results in varied quality between school sites.

## A PREVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Creating a Culture of Scholar Investment
- A Day in The Life of a Scholar with Cognitive Impairments
- Mindfulness (Being Calm in The Storm)
- Incorporating Play into Your Classroom Culture
- "But are They Learning Anything?!" Formative Assessments & Data
- Pushing Problem Solving by Asking "Good Questions" in Math
- Making Your Work More Personally Sustainable
- Pushing Your Mid and Mid-High Scholars
- Delivering Difficult Messages to Parents with Compassion
- Switch the Code: How The South Bronx Should Influence Your Teaching

# 20+

#### SESSION OPTIONS EACH MONTH

At Classical Charter Schools, we trust our teachers to drive their own professional development. So, rather than standardizing sessions for all staff, we offer choice. Each month teachers choose from over 20 sessions focused on instruction, management, sustainability, and culture.

Whether you are new to education or have been teaching for many years, there is something to be learned at Classical Charter Schools. Our targeted professional development propels any dedicated educator to a level of expertise in the topics that inspire them most. So, apply now, and start your journey to being the informed, specialized educator you aspire to be.



**CLASSICAL**  
CHARTER SCHOOLS