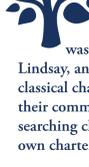


CORNERSTONE CLASSICAL ACADEMY HISTORICAL TIMELINE

FROM IDEA TO INSTITUTION IN LESS THAN 3 YEARS



2015

Inspired by a visit to a classical charter school in Naples, Florida, David Hoyt encounters for the first time, the way American education was meant to be. He immediately calls up his wife Lindsay, and they begin discussing the idea of starting a classical charter school in Jacksonville for their children and their community. They spend the next several years researching classical education and how to start their very own charter school in Florida.



January 2018

Lindsay and David Hoyt make the decision to follow their hearts and begin work to establish a new classical charter school in Jacksonville. Led by a belief in traditional educational methods rooted in virtue and civic awareness, the couple seek out like-minded individuals to join their effort.



May 2018

The Founding Board is officially established and includes nine volunteer members: Lindsay and David Hoyt, Crystal and Jeff Baker, Daniel Ryan, Penny Kennedy, Elizabeth Kirschner, Sally Lutz, Scott Pauzar, and Lauren Wilder. The first board meeting is held around the Hoyt's kitchen table.



Over the next 2 1/2 years, this group will devote countless hours and donate significant funds to create the entire school from scratch including naming the school, writing the mission and vision, deciding the 7 school virtues and planning out every detail.



October 2018

The name "Cornerstone Classical Academy" is approved by the founding board and is incorporated as a Florida not-for-profit corporation. The founding board also starts writing the charter application and works tirelessly to complete before the deadline of February 1 at 5pm. "Burning the candle at both ends" was a common theme during the start-up phase of the school in its entirety.



A "Cornerstone" is a stone representing the nominal starting place in the construction of a monumental building. It is the first stone that is set and determines the position of all the stones to be laid afterwards. The founders view our students as those monumental buildings with a classical education as the cornerstone.



November 2018

The motto, mission, and vision were written and approved by the board. Founding board member, Jeff Baker created over a dozen crest designs and the board voted on our final school crest.



December 2018

Cornerstone Classical Academy hosts the first "parent information meeting" at Beaches Branch Public Library to a crowd of 30 led by Lindsay and David Hoyt and Elizabeth Kirschner. Officers are also nominated and approved: Board Chair Lindsay Hoyt, Treasurer Lauren Wilder and Secretary Elizabeth Kirschner.



February 1, 2019

The board submits its 462-page application to the Duval County School Board. 5 physical copies along with an electronic copy on USB were submitted. David Hoyt submitted the documents to the district before the 5pm deadline.



2 of the 5 physical copies of the charter application



Founding Board Secretary Elizabeth Kirschner and Founding Board Member David Hoyt begin looking up the applications to state them to district office for submission on February 1, 2019



Founding Board Chair Lindsay Hoyt's 2-year-old daughter, now a CCA student, needed a bag and was building a stomach bug on the application submitted day which made it even more stressful

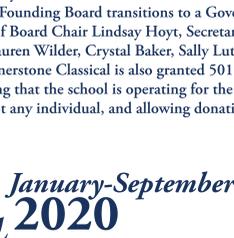


With an hour and 25 minutes to spare until the 5pm deadline, Founding Board Member David Hoyt submits the application to the district

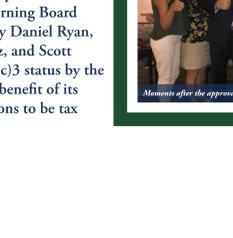


March 28, 2019

The founding board participates in a 90-minute applicant interview with Duval County Public Schools where dozens of questions were asked by a panel of more than 10 DCPS staff members regarding the charter application.

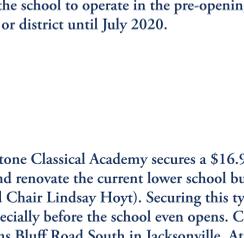


Waiting in anxious anticipation for the applicant interview with the district. The interview was conducted at downtown DCPS school in their library



August 2019

The 7-member Duval County School Board unanimously approves Cornerstone Classical Academy's charter to begin operations as a privately managed, publicly funded charter school. With the approval of its charter, the founding Board transitions to a Governing Board comprised of Board Chair Lindsay Hoyt, Secretary Daniel Ryan, Treasurer Lauren Wilder, Crystal Baker, Sally Lutz, and Scott Pauzar. Cornerstone Classical is also granted 501(c)3 status by the IRS, ensuring that the school is operating for the benefit of its students, not any individual, and allowing donations to be tax deductible.



Moments after the approval from the DCPS Board



January-September 2020

Cornerstone Classical Academy receives generous donations totaling \$150,000 from an anonymous donor in memory of Mrs. Agnes Seyfert which enabled the school to operate in the pre-opening phase since the school received zero funding from the state or district until July 2020.



March 31, 2020

After six months of preparation and planning, Cornerstone Classical Academy secures a \$16.9 million tax-exempt municipal bond to purchase property and renovate the current lower school building (picture below is the closing bond document held by Board Chair Lindsay Hoyt). Securing this type of financing is very unique for a non-managed charter school, especially before the school even opens. Cornerstone Classical Academy purchased a 16-acre located at 2360 St. Johns Bluff Road South in Jacksonville. At this point, the country had been shut down for several weeks due to the COVID pandemic and to close on a bond this size with the world in crisis was a miracle. The property, previously used by a church and private school, included a large main building, three smaller buildings, parking lots, and open space for athletic fields.



"I didn't know they made 3-ring binders this big!" - Board Chair Lindsay Hoyt



Hours after the bond was closed and the property was purchased, the Hoyts visited the future site of Cornerstone Classical Academy



April 2020

Cornerstone Classical selects a general contractor and breaks ground on the approximately \$6 multi-million-dollar renovation project.



The Lower School Building was completely gutted and a second story was put in bringing the original 25,000 sq ft building to 56,000 square feet

Every detail was picked even down to the paint colors

The second story was added and concrete was poured

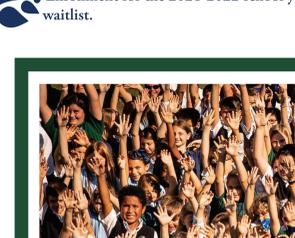
Published in the Beaches Leader, this was one of the earliest marketing tools used to recruit families to attend Cornerstone Classical

Since the building was incomplete for teacher training, the school rented a room at the Salem Center in Jacksonville to hold teacher training



August 2020

Cornerstone Classical successfully opened its doors to 442 students during a global pandemic. The school offered instruction in kindergarten through 6th grade in its first year with plans to add a grade each year through 12th.



Celebratory brunch in the parking lot on the first day of school



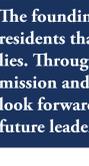
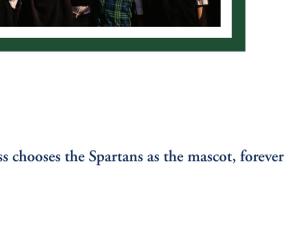
October 2020

The newly renovated 56,000-square-foot lower school building is completed. Teachers and administrators move into their new classrooms and offices. Students begin class in the new building on October 19 and welcomed students.



November 2020

Cornerstone Classical holds a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lower School Building attended by local leaders, including U.S. Representative John Rutherford, Florida Representative Jason Fischer, and Duval County School Board Member Charlotte Joyce.



January 2021

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year opened. In 30 days, 6 out of 8 grades already had a waitlist.



May 2021

Cornerstone Classical Academy's Inaugural Class chooses the Spartans as the mascot, forever leaving their imprint on this amazing school.

The founding of Cornerstone Classical Academy was a grassroots effort led by local Jacksonville residents that believed so whole-heartedly that a classical school should be an option for families. Through immense perseverance and countless miracles, the school is now able to fulfill our mission and gift a beautiful, classical education to hundreds of students every day. The founders look forward to many wonderful years ahead graduating American patriots who will be the future leaders of our great country.



