CORNERSTONE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE

FROM IDEA TO INSTITUTION IN LESS THAN 3 YEARS

Lindsay's Kitchen Table- where CCA began

## 2014

The idea for the school was born after a visit to a classical charter school in Naples, Florida, where an inspiring and rigorous educational model came to life. Lindsay Randall begins discussing the idea of starting a classical charter school in Jacksonville for her children and community. She spends the next several years researching classical education and how to start her very own classical charter school in Florida.

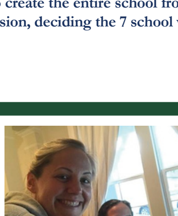
## January 2018

With no public or private classical schools available in Jacksonville, Lindsay makes the decision to follow her heart and begins working to establish a new classical charter school in Jacksonville. Led by a belief in traditional educational methods rooted in virtue and civic awareness, she seeks out like-minded individuals to join her effort and help bring the vision to life.

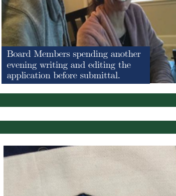
## May 2018

The Founding Board is officially established and includes ten volunteer members. The first board meeting is held around the Lindsay's kitchen table.

Over the next 2 ½ 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.



Board Members spending another evening writing and editing the application before submittal.



The first pass at the crest embroidery from our uniform vendor, Poindexter's

## 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 stones to be laid afterwards. The founders view our students as those monumental buildings with a classical education as the cornerstone.

## November 2018

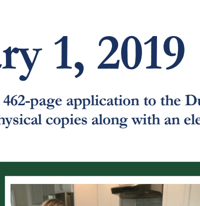
The motto, mission, and vision were written and approved by the board. After reviewing over a dozen crest designs, the board decided on CCA's final school crest.

## December 2018

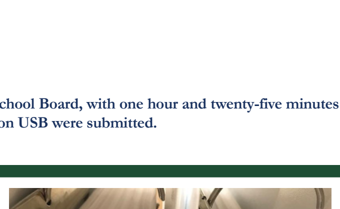
Cornerstone Classical Academy hosts the first "parent information meeting" at Beaches Branch Public Library to a crowd of 30. Officers are also nominated and approved.

## February 1, 2019

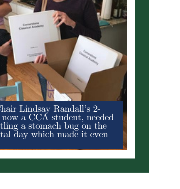
The board submits its 462-page application to the Duval County School Board, with one hour and twenty-five minutes to spare until the 5 PM deadline. Five physical copies along with an electronic copy on USB were submitted.



Founding Board Chair Lindsay Randall's 2-year-old daughter, now a CCA student, needed a hug and was battling a stomach bug on the application submittal day which made it even more eventful.



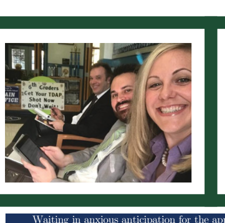
2 of the 5 physical copies of the charter application



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

## 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.



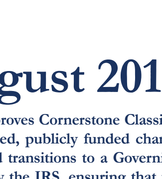
Moments after the approval from the DCPS Board

## 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. 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.

## August 30, 2019

Cornerstone Classical Academy executes a Purchase Sale Agreement for the property located at 2360 St. Johns Bluff Road South.



## January-September 2020

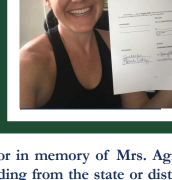
Cornerstone Classical Academy receives generous donations totaling $150,000 from an anonymous donor in memory of Mrs. Agnes Seyfert which enabled the school to operate in the pre-opening phase since the school received zero funding from the state or district until July 2020.

## 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 is the closing bond document held by Board Chair Lindsay Randall).

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-acres 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 truly 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



Hours after the bond was closed and the property was purchased, Lindsay and her daughters visit the future site of Cornerstone Classical Academy.

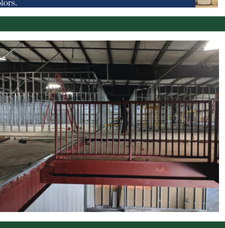
"I didn't know they made 3-ring binders this big!"-Board Chair Lindsay Randall

## April 2020

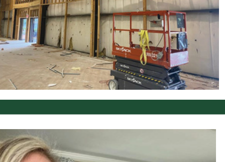
Cornerstone Classical selects a general contractor and breaks ground on the approximately $6 multi-million-dollar building renovation project.

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 sq ft...

The second story was added and concrete was poured.



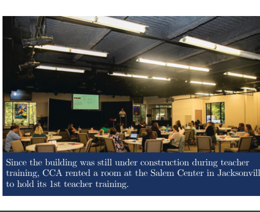
Every detail was picked even down to the paint colors.



## May 2020

The Beaches Leader publishes Lindsay's letter to the editor about Cornerstone Classical and explains, "I started a school to teach the youngest generation to be virtuous and free-thinking."

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



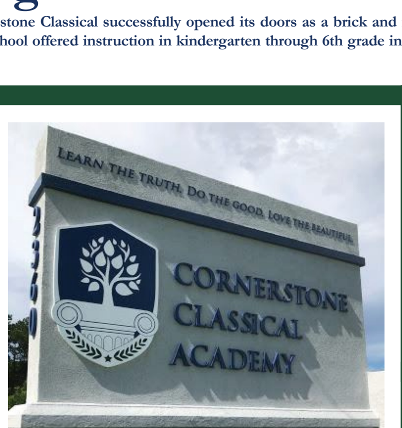
Since the building was still under construction during teacher training, CCA rented a room at the Salem Center in Jacksonville to hold its 1st teacher training.

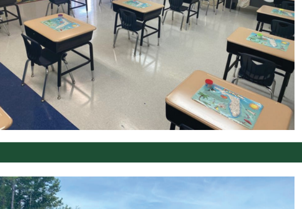
## July 2020

Cornerstone Classical hosts 80 hours of curriculum training and professional development on language arts, history, geography, mathematics, and science, Core Knowledge Sequence, Singapore Math and Access Literacy for approximately 35 incoming teachers.

## August 2020

Cornerstone Classical successfully opened its doors as a brick and mortar school 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

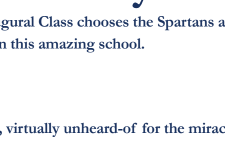




Celebratory brunch in the parking lot on the 1st day of school.

## October 2020

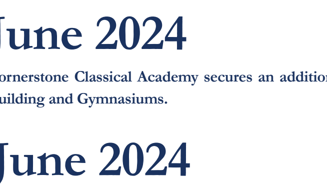
The newly renovated 56,000-square-foot lower school building is completed. Teachers and administrators move into their new classrooms and offices. Students begin class in the new building on October 19 and welcomed students



Ribbon cutting

## 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.

## July 2021

Cornerstone Classical Academy receives its first school grade, an A-rating for the inaugural year, virtually unheard-of for the miracle first-year charter school!

## June 2024

Cornerstone Classical Academy secures an additional $23.1 million tax-exempt municipal bond for construction of new Upper School Building and Gymnasiums.

## June 2024

Cornerstone Classical Academy holds a ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony, celebrating the beginning of construction for the new Upper School Building and Gymnasiums to be completed the following year.

CCA Board Members & Administrators at the Groundbreaking Ceremony

## November 2024

Cornerstone Classical Academy attains High-Performing Charter School Status from the Florida Department of Education, a designation awarded to schools that demonstrate sustained academic excellence, financial stability, and operational compliance.

## May 8, 2025

Cornerstone Classical Academy at Wildlight executes a Purchase Sale Agreement for the property located in the Garden District of Wildlight in Yulee, Florida.

## June 2025

Cornerstone Classical Academy announces the launch of the new Cornerstone Classical Academy at Wildlight campus, slated to open in August 2027.

Board Members, Sally Lutz & Lindsay Randall, and Executive Director Edi Wohlgemuth at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

## July 2025

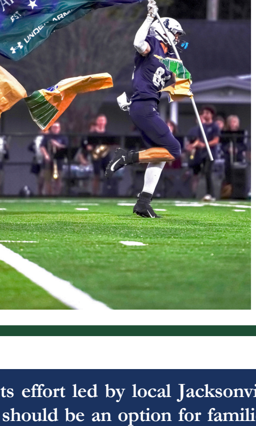
Cornerstone Classical Academy holds a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Upper School Building and Gymnasiums.

## October 2025

Cornerstone Classical Academy marks the opening of the new turf sports field, with the Spartans Homecoming Football Game.

## July 2026

Cornerstone Classical Academy at Wildlights holds a Groundbreaking Ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on the brand new campus.




## May 2027 (Future)

Cornerstone Classical Academy at Jacksonville marks a historic milestone with the graduation of its inaugural senior class, the CCA Class of 2027!

## August 2027 (Future)

Cornerstone Classical Academy Wildlight projects opening for the 2027-2028 school year as a Kindergarten through 7th grade school with students.

**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 more than 1,000 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.**

CORNERSTONE CLASSICAL ACADEMY