

Teaching for Transformation Graduate Course

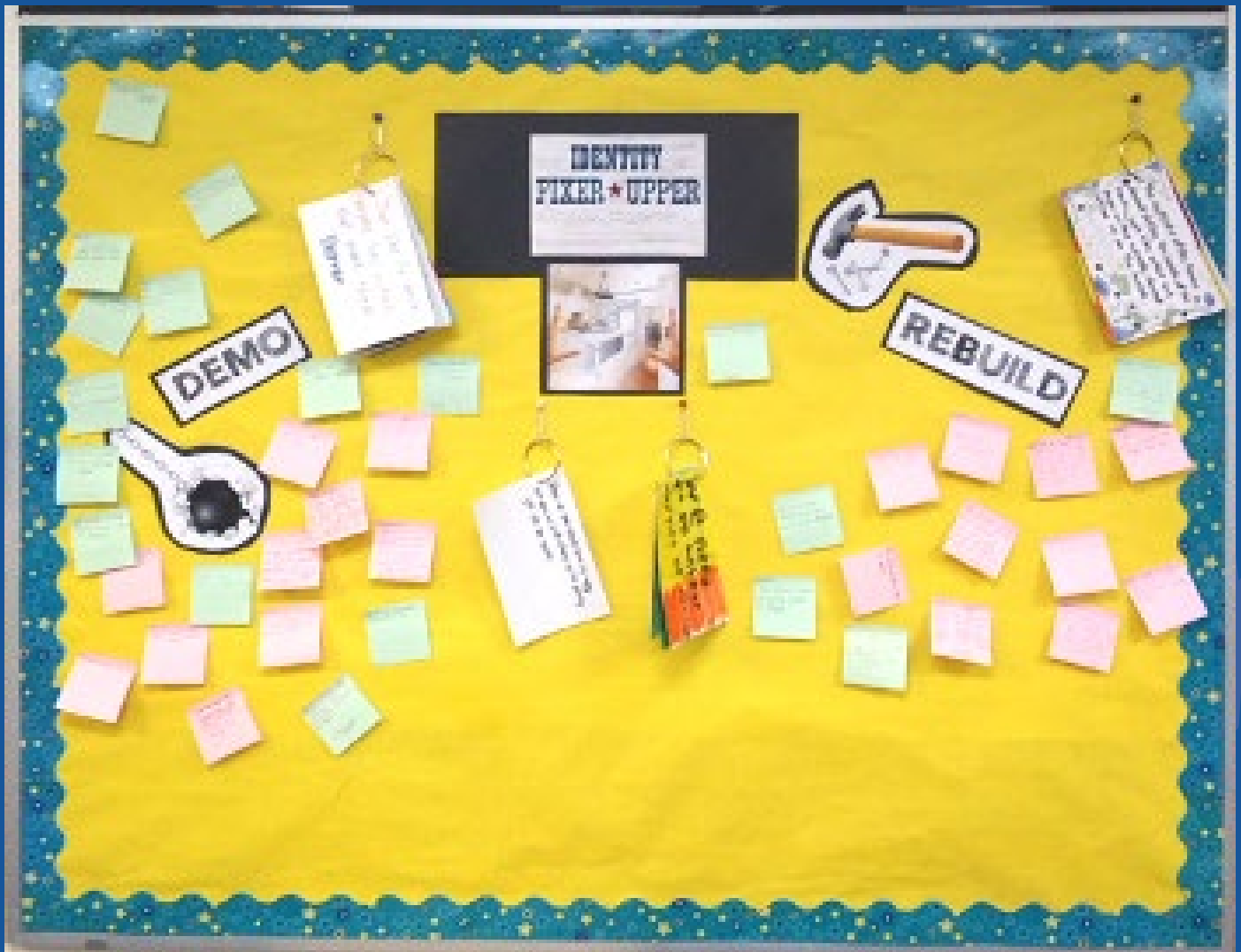
In response to the need to onboard “new-to-Teaching-for-Transformation” teachers in existing TfT schools, Dordt University began this fall to offer a yearlong, online, graduate level course that fully immerses new teachers in the TfT framework. This new course, taught by TfT school designer and Dordt University education professor Pat Kornelis, is designed to introduce the core practices in the first semester and then deepen the implementation of those practices in the second semester. While the 25 participants from TfT network schools acknowledge that it is challenging to engage in TfT work amid all the other new challenges of teaching, their overwhelming response has been very positive. What follows are a few reflections from these participants along with some images of their work.

For more information on the course, visit [**dordt.edu/tft-course**](https://dordt.edu/tft-course).



This course has taught me to be intentional, thoughtful, and to think about what I REALLY want from myself, my classroom, and my students. It is not so much a difference in my content (in other words, it's not a new program to introduce material), but rather asks me to reflect and refocus, making sure that what I am doing in my classroom lines up with who I wish my students to become in Christ. It brings Christian Education back to its core, its foundation, prioritizing how students see themselves in God's Story and being authentic in doing that. And it's challenging, right? There is no one right way to do it, but rather (and here's the challenging part!) I have been reminded to dig deeper into who I am as a teacher and as a Christian, and allow my classroom to flow out of that. The successes that I've had so far are being genuinely excited about my Deep Hope and Storyline, and since I am, inviting students into that with me. I've also been thrilled with experimenting in interactive boards (students' responses have been wonderful) and giving a more clear direction of learning (daily targets). One of the most helpful aspects of the class so far has been the sharing of experiences with other teachers who are in the exact same spot, hearing from their successes and failures, and gaining a new perspective from them, and just realizing that we're all adjusting together to a new way of thinking.

– Lori Bolt (middle school language arts)





- don't judge people because you think they are different - God made everyone the same
- Our sinful actions
 - Satan's control
 - not to mentally hurt people
 - think about others before yourself
 - We shouldn't act chaotic like Scho.

Rebuild:

- We should build our mental health
- I think we should help those who don't have enough social power
- To have more confidence and be able to stand up for others through Christ
- we can be better by doing what is right at the right times
- I think we should let people join us if they want to, like if we're playing catch, if someone isn't good we should teach them how to be better at it
- be nice, treat others how you want to be treated
- use social power to bring people to Christ
- I think we need to build a knowing of social power. We need to know the effects and the reactions of social power and use it wisely
- my faith in God and others
- we should try our best to accept people who are not in or don't have social power. We need to try to help them kind of like Glennie and Monk
- We need to speak up when we see other people getting bullied
- We should be kind
- I can build courage for these things and try not to take them to heart
- listen to everyone not just friends

Identity Fixer Upper - Social Power and Reactions to Being Outside of It

Demolish:

- I think we should demolish all signs of judgment
- We shouldn't leave people out if we said we would include them
- How I judge people because we don't know what they are going through
- We need to destroy envy and jealousy. In the story, it led to bad things. We should also destroy exclusion.
- I think it's hard to deal with social power. Something we can take away is that we don't always have to be in control
- We have to stop immediately resorting to brute force
- Don't pressure other people to not like someone just because you don't like them
- We need to demolish the part of us that is a bully
- We need to demolish any part of us that is jealous or greedy of others.
- I need to demolish my jealousy
- Get rid of pushing people away because of jealousy
- Bullying people or hurting and being really mean to them
- Don't bully
- we should demolish bullying and take out mean attitudes
- We have to stop all of the manipulating and stuff that's not too epic. If we do stuff it will be in the spotlight and more people will do it.
- letting people push you around
- We as Christians should get rid of the idea that we are better than others
- Don't make fun of people
- Abuse of social power
- I think we need to demo the part where we ignore one person and praise another I also think once we do that, we need to give everyone social power
- distractions from God

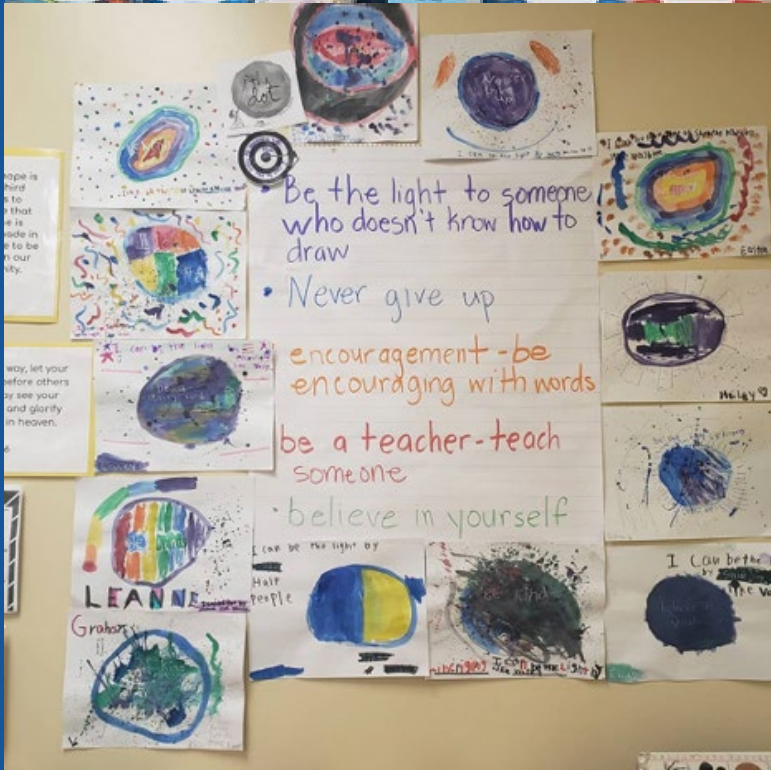
• STOP TRYING
to be like
everyone else

try to think before
do.

This TFT course has helped deepen my understanding of why I teach at a Christian school. It has helped provide the framework for me and my students to see and be a part of God's story through my deep hope and storyline connection to curriculum. As I design my lessons, I think about forming peculiar students and my focus is on what I want them to remember well into adulthood as a follower of Christ. As an educator, I am so joyful when I see my own students "being the light" within our classroom community and beyond and recognizing the actions of others who are shining God's light. I would recommend TFT to others because God is at the center, and it is His children engaging in authentic experiences as Kingdom seekers.

– Amber Oosterheert (3rd grade)







So far this class has encouraged and challenged me to think of a meaningful deep hope and storyline for my middle school English students. It's been a great place to think through ideas with a variety of teachers and gain insights on how to integrate Biblical truth and elements of TtT into my curriculum. The activities in this class have encouraged me to get students involved in my deep hope and storyline, as well as showcase it in my classroom. Creating a visual reminder of my storyline (Crafted in Christ) has been a fun way to invite students to be part of it.

In the pictures here, students were asked to design a hoodie that illustrated a theme from a pair of stories we read in class. The theme should have depicted what it looks like to follow Christ based on the characters, actions, and events in the stories. The themes students picked were ones they believed were at the heart of what it means to be Crafted in Christ.

– Carrie Quist (7th grade language arts)

