



## **AMENDMENT TO OUR TDA POG FOR SENIORS AND IN AGREEMENT WITH PARENTS**

### **Why we have the POG in the first place:**

As you are aware, our Opposite Gender Policy (POG) is intended to help students:

1. Focus their hearts and affection on Jesus during a season in life when marriage is some ways off and it's usually unfruitful to pursue a relationship as a younger teen
2. Build friendships in a community with both genders
3. Walk in purity before the Lord
4. Have an opportunity to give their teenage years and hearts to the Lord in undistracted devotion

All of these reasons remain core values to our school. We believe the Lord has gathered students and families who want to walk purity out in an honest and safe way.

### **Amendment to current policy:**

Due to both parents and students wanting to walk together in the process of dating while students still live at home, and considering that seniors are at an age when marriage could be within a few years, we want to offer the opportunity for seniors to date before leaving for college or internships. This of course is second to your family's beliefs and rules.

This is a quote from a senior representing what encapsulates the thoughts behind this change: "If the purpose of TDA is to equip Daniels going into Babylon, are we currently missing the training on how to walk out dating relationships in Christian community? And are we equipping families to walk with their students in the dating arena?"

We believe it is wisest to have some time at home for students to initiate relationships. Therefore, we are amending our policy to allow seniors to date, assuming the parents and students are in agreement as families.

### **How we want to walk this out:**

TALK TALK TALK! Parents and students should dialogue and seek the Lord on what their family values are and how they want to see this walked out in their family. Some great questions to ask your student are:

1. What does purity mean to you? How are you embracing this now? How would you embrace this if you were dating?

2. What activities would you want to do if you date someone?
3. What signs of affection would you consider within the bounds of keeping your heart pure?
4. What boundaries would you put in place in a relationship?
5. Who will hold you accountable to these boundaries?
6. How can we (Mom and Dad) walk well with you in this season?
7. How can TDA help in this journey?
8. Mom and Dad -maybe tell your children how you walked this out in your own life. What did you do well? What would you do differently knowing what you know now?

**How would TDA be involved:**

We realize we have a unique dynamic of partnering with parents to mentor and care for students, both intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically. We see our teachers as mentors coming alongside the parents. We will not overstep into the boundaries of parents, but are here to help and support your family in any way we can.

Knowing that all the younger students will be watching and observing, we want to walk this out well as a senior class and as a school.

**Details:**

1. If after a family has thoroughly dialogued about their own values and heart standards and wish to proceed with pursuing a one-on-one relationship, we will walk with them in partnership.
2. We will continue to keep the same public boundaries at TDA and all TDA events as we have previously, including no display of affection beyond what would occur between brothers and sisters in the Lord (no hand-holding, , no isolated talking, no kissing, etc). If this line should get crossed then a teacher or mentor would step in to help.
3. We will continue to develop marvelous comrades and an atmosphere of friendship for all students.
4. Only seniors can date TDA seniors (as opposed to TDA juniors, etc). If your student wants to date someone older or younger who is not at TDA, that is your family's decision.