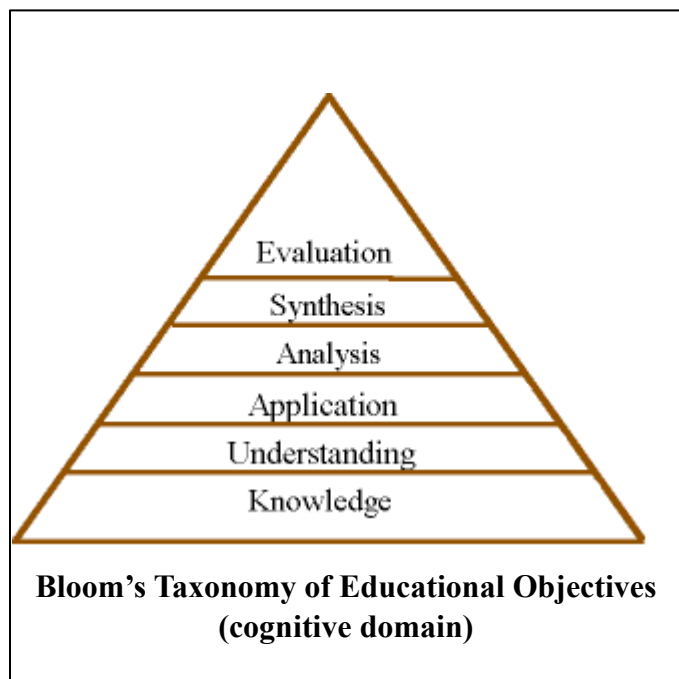




## Elementary Educational Model Balancing Traditional Strengths with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Objectives By Timothy Hoy (Elementary Principal)

Lighthouse Christian School seeks to offer a strong elementary educational program. We value and employ both the traditional and the more progressive models of education. We seek to implement a model that grows and progresses with students.

When discussing education, people often debate the value of traditional approaches versus some of the newer approaches. At Lighthouse Christian School, we value both and believe that both are necessary for a complete education. We believe that the traditional approach, with its emphasis on knowledge and content mastery, lays the necessary foundation in the students' early years. Just as a pianist has to labor to master musical scales as a means to becoming accomplished, so a student must acquire a body of knowledge so that he or she has the tools to engage in critical, high-level thinking. In our model, the primary emphasis of grades K-2 will be the acquisition of foundational knowledge and understanding. At these grade levels, we seek teachers who have an understanding of and a commitment to a more traditional educational model. We will continue to use the ABeka curriculum because it consistently and comprehensively equips our students in reading, math, and language.



While the traditional approach is strong in laying the foundation, it is also critical that we extend and build on that foundation. Technology and the internet have made knowledge so accessible that the greater challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century student is in discerning and making skillful use of that knowledge. More than ever, our students need wisdom and high-level, critical thinking skills to thrive in a global, information-rich economy. In our elementary program, there will be a gradual shift from knowledge acquisition to skillful application as students progress through the upper grades. In addition to content mastery, grades 3-5 will give greater emphasis on applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating knowledge. We seek teachers who are comfortable with

technology, conversant with current research, and committed to a more inquiry-based style of teaching/learning. Our curriculum selection will be broader as we seek textbooks that best demonstrate a commitment to skills development in students.