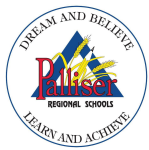


Calgary Christian Secondary



Palliser Regional Schools

Education Plan May 2022



Learn,
to shape God's world.

Calgary Christian Secondary School

Mission Statement

Calgary Christian School is a community, called and dedicated to integrate faith and learning, reaching for excellence in equipping responsive citizens of God's kingdom through a Christ-centered educational environment.

Vision

God's children making the world a better place.

Tagline

Learn, to shape God's world.

Vision Statement

We believe that God is the Lord of all creation. As a community of Christians, together with the support of the home and encouragement of the church, we are dedicated to educating, from a biblical perspective, the children God has entrusted to us.

Within a Christian environment, the school seeks to shape its curriculum and methodology using Christian principles.

Children are unique image bearers of Christ. Therefore, we are committed to developing the gifts of each student. We wish to nurture all children so that they may be led to discover, celebrate and proclaim, both individually and communally, the restorative power of God's work in all areas of life.

We strive to provide knowledge, insight and skills to equip them for a life of faithful and joyous service to God and neighbour.

Staff Vision Statement

The staff at Calgary Christian Secondary School believe we are called to create a warm and inclusive atmosphere that engages students in learning and encourages them to live in a Christ-like manner.

Goal 1	To intentionally provide opportunities that foster stakeholder wellness and relationships.	
Assurance Elements: 3, 4, 5, 7, 10	Measures: <i>How will we know?</i>	Strategies: <i>How will we get there?</i>
Key Relationships: 1. Student ↔ Student 2. Staff ↔ Student 3. Staff ↔ Staff 4. School ↔ Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OurSchool Survey - Staff Engagement at Staff Learning Gatherings - Parent-Teacher Interviews - Attendance at Evening Events - Support of and Participation in the School's Extra Curricular Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School wide student council meetings and events - Discussions around what an effective mentoring program should look like here at CCS - Student leadership team - engages Palliser wide initiatives and new virtual events - 4th R - new health curriculum provided by Palliser - Creating small group faith formation times that foster personal conversations - Look into other SEL programs for our grade 7s+8s - Making Connections Worker facilitating small group discussions to establish and/or restore relationships. - The WELL - a new space that allows students who need to reset or return to a regulated state. Overseen by our FSCL and wellness team. - Building relationships through small group faith formation - Establishing cohorts/clubs of shared interest to build mentorship opportunities - Senior project mentor choice - Extra-curricular involvement - EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners supported by a new position designed to support and teach EAL learners. - Intentional staff learning times that provide ample opportunity for staff voice - Social events - Share professional learning moments publicly - Collaborative learning & teaching - Shared vision dialog - School wellness team led by health champion and administration - Classroom visits between colleagues - Engaging in service opportunities outside our walls - Celebrate great things publicly and virtually via the website and social media - Involve parents in the learning process through parent email, info nights, and a celebration of learning - Open House - Develop relationships with local indigenous peoples to further reconciliation and to develop a deeper understanding of culture. - Making Connection Worker works alongside families that need help identifying support available to them.

Goal 2	To intentionally foster and develop a culture of thinking integrated with faith.	
Assurance Elements: 1, 2, 4, 5, 9	Measures: <i>How will we know?</i>	Strategies: <i>How will we get there?</i>
<p>1. Faith & School Culture</p> <p>a. Rigorous b. Relevant</p> <p>2. Curriculum</p> <p>a. Rigorous b. Relevant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OurSchool Survey - Gathering Discussions - Staff Sharing - Grad Profile - Internal/External Results - Building Design/Expansion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consistency of content/curriculum delivery - Allow for space for big questions that can be explored and honoured through class discussions and through staff discussions. - Increase our estimates of student achievement - raising the bar - Grad Profile - Consistency w/ school policy and shared expectations -Worldview Document - Meet kids where they are at - understand/research current societal issues - creation/LGBTQ+/equality etc. - The establishment of a gay-straight alliance to support students through relationship - Model respectful conversations amongst adults in front of students - Grad Profile - Professional learning/reading - Emotional Intelligence Training - the creation of new wellness classes in grade 7&8. - Use OurSchoolSurvey questions and data to assess needs in the area of wellness. - Student testing to establish baselines - Consistency of content/curriculum delivery & vocabulary (grade 7-12) - Integrated time for enriched experiences to start and develop - Continue scope & sequence conversations between disciplines - Sharing of best practice - Diploma/PAT Analysis will return after January 2022 exams - New strategies for deployment of EAs to allow for more student opportunities during COVID-19 - Revamped the IPP process for students to include ISP - Staff hiring along with reassessing current teaching assignments - Hired two Bible instructors to spark the program - Investigate/try a new visible learning practice - Acknowledge the latest trends in educational pedagogy - - Continue dialog around best practice - Dual Credit - New Career Pathways discussions continue - Cultures of Thinking PD - Increased use of myBlueprint

<p style="text-align: center;">Grad Profile/ Identity Our deep hope for CCS Grads...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teacher Support</p>
<p>Root their own story in God's story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Find themselves in the Biblical Story(s) ● Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration 	<p>Make the biblical story relevant, engaging and attractive.</p> <p>What did this Bible text mean to original hearers?</p> <p>Share your own story.</p>
<p>Desire to learn and grow, receive and share God's grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are taught to know God through His Word, prayer, and fellowship with believers. ● Practice forgiveness, meditation/conflict resolution, kindness & generosity 	<p>Demonstrate this in their own ways to students and verbally appreciate the ways others do it now or in history.</p> <p>Include appreciation for other CCS teachers.</p>
<p>Respect differences of opinion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Active Listening ● UNDERSTAND, then respectfully articulate their opinion/ disagree 	<p>Share diverse views rooted in the Biblical story.</p> <p>Create a safe environment so student's can say what they think & not what they think we want to hear.</p> <p>Provide opportunities for student - parent faith discussions.</p>
<p>"Own" their faith in Jesus and practice living it out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personalize ● Based on God-given gifts ● Scripture knowledge ● Devotions 	<p>Encourage Questions & independent thinking.</p> <p>Share stories, including their own; offer *FLEx & other opportunities to help students practice discipleship or own the story.</p>
<p>Re-present Jesus in all of life at CCS and after Graduation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kingdom of God - Jesus says he owns every square inch of creation (Kuyper) ● Engaging/ transforming not hiding or retreating from the world ● Opportunities to practice ● Be given tools to share faith. ● Has had to identify & practically use gifts and talents for the Kingdom of God. 	<p>Grace first.</p> <p>Share their own passion & stories.</p> <p>*FLEx and other opps. to help students own the story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a pious wish to think students will transform the world if we don't give them opportunities to practice (Nicholas Wolterstorff)

GRAD PROFILE – Summarizing key values

We've taken feedback from stakeholders in various meetings and tried to consolidate them into some kind of cumulative sequence that makes sense. We need to find a consistent way to share these elements. (This is still complex; word choice needs to be narrowed down. Brevity and succinctness are highly desirable.)

Foundational Elements (IDENTITY) are grounding for all other character and skill developments - defines ALL values, ALL activities, ALL learning.

Contextual Elements (RELATIONSHIP) We affirm being created as relational beings - children and image-bearers of God - meant for community (in all its shapes and forms including friendships, families, neighborhoods, the church - locally and globally).

Life Expression/Action Elements (PURPOSE) Fulfillment, then, is the application of these values and beliefs into the world wherever we may be called; that is part of learning - to explore, discover, prepare (practice) and act upon the purpose(s) for which we were created.

➤ **Identity** (FOUNDATION)

- Inner IDENTITY
 - Loved by God, saved thru Christ, created for a purpose
 - rooted in God's Story (narrative) (Bible)
 - informed by God's revelations (Creation)
 - Uniquely created - God's peculiar treasure, equipped for a distinct purpose
- Outward EXPRESSIONS (outlook)
 - Optimistic (we are loved by *the* sovereign God who rules all things)
 - Resilient (all things are possible through Him; endurance)
 - Gracious (kind encouragement) (*paraclete* see Romans 15)
 - Kind, understanding, respectful, humble

➤ **Relationship** (CONTEXT)

- To God through Christ
 - active faith life / spiritual disciplines
- To others because of Christ
 - (Christian Character)
 - kind
 - empathetic
 - respectful

- “image reflector”
 - “servant worker”
 - Communal participant / “community builder” – value (growth and sanctification) of self is realized in a context of genuine relationship and support of others IN COMMUNITY (the church universal as it permeates all facets of our lives)
 - Foster, grow, and strengthen presence of the Kingdom - family, church, school, work, neighborhood, municipality, world
-

➤ **Purpose** (ACTION)

Our “Life Expression” which incarnates our purpose to love our our neighbors and steward creation

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. culturally literate | Cultural Literacy |
| 2. physically active | Personal Well-being |
| 3. emotionally grounded | Emotional Resilience |
| 4. critical thinkers | Gracious/Respectful/Thoughtful Discernment |
| | |
| ○ genuinely curious | Genuine Curiosity |
| ○ perpetual learners | Growth Mindset (learning) |
| ○ effective communicators | Effective Communication |
| ○ solution creators | Creative Solution-building / Problem Solvers |
| ○ generous collaborators | Generous Collaboration |

Stewarding Creation includes literacy:

- Ecologically / ie natural resources, ecosystems, etc.
- Financially / ie money management, poverty alleviation, commerce & industry, entrepreneurship for communal development
- Culturally / ie, arts & sciences, trades, regional diversity, community & civic planning

Vision

Our deep desire is to see -
God's children making the world a better place.

Mission

Calgary Christian School is a community, called and dedicated to integrate faith and learning, reaching for excellence as we equip responsive citizens of God's Kingdom through a Christ-centered educational environment.

Values*God at the Centre*

God is our greatest value and the reason CCS exists. We believe that life and education are at their best when God is at the center. Each day we seek to be filled by His love, power, and presence so that we can actively participate in His eternal purpose to redeem people and all of Creation.

Life is Better Together

CCS is surrounded by a caring, supportive community that plays an active and vital role in the life and health of the school. Through intentional relationships, we serve as the loving hands of Christ and invite others to become a part of a community where they can feel at home.

Learning for All of Life

God has created a vast, wondrous, multi-faceted world - so we take an expansive approach to education to develop the whole child. We want each of our students to discover their unique strengths and realize their full God-given potential. Our goal is to equip them with the understanding, skills and attitude they need to thrive intellectually, artistically, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually.

Serve Generously

The families who founded CCS more than a half century ago modeled dedication, hard work, and self-sacrifice to establish a Christian school in Calgary. Today, our community continues in that spirit of devotion. Our parents and staff routinely go above and beyond the call to volunteer as board members, coaches, prayer warriors, hot dog chefs, stage hands, and sport chauffeurs. Many families continue to actively support CCS even after their children have graduated.

Keep Reaching Higher

God has given us wonderful gifts and potential that He wants us to fan into flame, so we set specific goals, monitor our progress, and give thought to our ways. When we miss the mark, we acknowledge our shortcomings, take corrective measures and redouble our efforts.

Life is for Celebrating!

Life is a good and beautiful gift from God, so we celebrate it! We intentionally cultivate an atmosphere of kindness, love, and harmony so that friendliness, smiles and joy may abound. Our students and staff freely express their humor and unique personalities, and this celebratory spirit shines in our classrooms, through our hallways, on the playground and in our many special events.

History

In 1963, a group of like-minded parents - many of whom were recent immigrants and Dutch Calvinists - committed themselves to build a school where their children would grow in knowledge and wisdom through a distinctly Christian education. It was to be a place where all of learning would be subject to God's will, and to the revelations of His Word and His Creation. What they started modestly in the basement of one church was Calgary's first private Christian school.

Fueled by their deep convictions, financial sacrifice, and tireless volunteer labor, they quickly transformed a rough little plot of land in Glenbrook into the Calgary Christian School campus. Through continued perseverance and sacrifice, the fledgling school graduated its first grade 9 class just 6 years later. In times of both plenty and need, the community's compelling vision for a Christian school galvanized parents and teachers in their shared purpose. It wasn't long before the tiny cluster of classrooms grew to include a gymnasium, science lab, and more classrooms. The Calgary Christian School community was well on its way to grow into a full-fledged K-12 school program.

God again blessed the community in the mid-1990s with a significant expansion. The neighboring curling club facility was for sale, so the parent-run school society purchased it with an eye to transform it into a middle and high school campus. For the better part of a decade, the CCS community - from founders and grandparents to current student families - again poured their financial gifts and volunteer best into renovating the facility.

Over the following 15 years, CCS grew both in size and reputation, achieving recognition for its academic rigor, athletics programs, and a highly -relational learning environment that developed well-rounded graduates. During this period, when costly necessities for operations and facility care threatened to dramatically increase program fees and limit who could afford its Christian programs, the school's Society prudently joined forces with the Palliser School District. Not only did this new partnership better enable CCS to remain financially accessible for many families, it also improved the compensation and working conditions of its teachers, and further strengthened the professional capacity of the school to fulfill its vision as an exceptional Christian school.

Today CCS serves a diverse student body of 850 students who represent more than 45 countries of origin and speak 32 different languages. Its distinct learning experiences help students understand who they are as children of God, and discover what it means to actively participate in His story of creation, love, and redemption.

Our Current Context

A future of rapid change and opportunity is before us, and CCS has thought carefully on how to position itself to better prepare its students to engage the 21st Century with confidence and purpose. Beyond university preparedness or introductions to career tracks, a CCS education must equip young people with growth mindsets and the tools they need to adapt to jobs, technology, challenges, and opportunities that haven't even been invented yet. It also means developing learning experiences with a distinctly Christian optimism that continues to integrate a deep and abiding faith in God's sovereignty and grace, as well as a tangible understanding with each student of their distinct purpose within His redeeming activities for all creation. It means we must equip young hearts, minds, and hands to care deeply, think critically, and act intentionally to serve a dynamic world that is still in need.

Which leads us to Calgary Christian School's next phase of growth and improvement.
