

Year End Report '09



CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

COUGAR LINK

Dear CCS Teachers, Staff and Parents:

Thank you for your support and commitment to Cincinnati Christian Schools during the 2008-09 school year. This has definitely been a challenging year for everyone but God Almighty has continued to shine favor on CCS for which we are truly grateful.

On behalf of the Board and the Administration, I would like to address topics of interest raised during the late spring open teacher/parent board meetings. Our hope is that this will give you confidence in the future of CCS as well as include you as prayer partners for this incredible ministry.

Enrollment: During these tough economic times, enrollment has become an issue for many of our families. Mr. Diefenbacher has been working diligently for the past year to put together a scholarship program that will help families who are in need of tuition assistance. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested in supporting Christian education through this program with a financial gift, please contact Mr. Diefenbacher, 513.313.3638. The enrollment standards for CCS have not changed. We look forward to honoring these standards as we interview prospective future students.

Finances: Parents have questioned the financial condition of our school. Included in this issue are financial reports comparing current financials for 2008-09 to three prior school years at CCS. As of this printing of this "Cougar Link", our school is tracking to be 30 students short of meeting our original budget based on 665 students for the 2009-10 school year. We wish to make it clear to donors that all designated donations in the future will only be used as the donor directs them to be used so that there is no misunderstanding. CCS will always require donations for "special projects" such as outlined in the Superintendent's report on summer projects, contained in this publication. The new Scholarship Program will also be an ongoing need for donations for our families.

Academics: In the area of academics, the Board expects to see improvements in academics each year from our school principals. The school Board directs the Superintendent to focus on specific "ends" during a given year. Mrs. Enos and Mrs. Hempelmann are diligently working on specific areas for the 2010-11 school year. These changes and/or additions to our curriculum will be communicated to the parents once final plans and programs are ready to be implemented into the school's course of study.

Continued on page 2.

Inside This Edition...

Letter from School Board

2009 Ohio Graduation Test Results

Financial Summary

Summer Projects List

Letters from: - Elementary and High School Principals

- Interim Superintendent

*From the
Superintendent*

Dear CCS Parents, Staff
and Friends,

By the time you receive this, I am sure there is one thing we all can agree on---the summer is flying by far too quickly. Soon our summer and our family activities will be a fond memory. At CCS we are busy thinking, planning, and implementing some great ideas that we hope will impact your child's education in a positive way this coming school year. You won't want to miss our "Back 2 School Night", on August 18th, it will be an evening you won't soon forget.

I truly praise the Lord for Cincinnati Christian Schools, the school we have chosen as parents, to help in "training up a child in the way they should go, so when they are old, they will not depart," (Proverbs 22:6). As Christian parents we will be held accountable by God for how we lead and direct our children in knowing God's Word. Dad's, I pray that each of you had a great Father's Day. What a wonderful time to stop and realize the responsibility we have to lead our families in passing on the Christian values and Biblical foundation that we each hold so dear. It is also a great time to pause and decide what truly is important in the lives of our families. Stop and think and try to visualize what decisions your children will be facing when they reach adulthood and have families of their own. Our culture shouts: "there is no absolute truth; everyone is right in their beliefs and values so don't rock the boat." How tempting it is to passively say,

Continued on back page.

The Cincinnati Christian Schools Class of 2009 earned \$1.4 million in scholarship money.

2009 Ohio Graduation Test Results

(% of students who passed first time taken)

Math 100%

Writing 100%

Reading 98%

Science 94.8%

Social Studies 96.5%



Continued from front page.

Leadership structure: Mr. Terry Diefenbacher has assumed the position of Interim Superintendent. Mr. Diefenbacher has been involved at CCS for over 14 years, with two students who have graduated and current 7th and 8th grade students. Mr. Diefenbacher has a strong education background as well as 25 years in business management experience. He has a heart for Christian education and most specifically for Cincinnati Christian Schools. After one year, the Board and Mr. Diefenbacher will evaluate his service and decide if he will become the permanent Superintendent.

Mrs. Deborah Enos has been hired by Mr. Diefenbacher to be the High School Principal. Mrs. Enos has served CCS for nine years as a superior teacher and most recently as Assistant Principal. Mrs. Enos has a Masters Degree in Education and already demonstrated strong skills in communication, teacher management and handling student discipline. She believes that God has directed her path to serve CCS in the capacity as principal. Mrs. Enos has also served on the mission field and has a special place in her heart for mission work.

At the last Board meeting, the Board elected the following people to serve as officers for the next year: Mr. John Thomas, Chairman, Mr. Michael Ansari, Vice Chairman and Mrs. Donna Snyder, Secretary. Because Mr. Diefenbacher has left the Board to serve as interim Superintendent, and Mr. Hitchcock's term on the Board has come to an end, the Board is now taking applications to fill these open positions. If you would like to talk to someone about serving on the Board, you can find a complete list of current Board members on the school website as well as an application. Go to cincinnati-christianschools.org, click on "About CCS" and then click on "School Board."

Communication: We know that there are communication challenges within the system at Cincinnati Christian Schools. The Board and the Administration has made it a priority to communicate clearly and in a timely manner in the future. The Board will also hold an Open Parent/Teacher Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 in the High School Diner and Thursday, March 25, 2010 in the Elementary Library. These meetings will be open to all teachers, staff and parents who would like to attend. This will be a time of update from the Board as well as an opportunity to ask questions. As always, you are welcome to visit our scheduled meetings at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month.

As we face a new school year, we look forward to working with you to equip, train and disciple students to impact culture.

Sincerely,
John Thomas, Board Chairman

**Thank you to the Parent Teacher Fellowship
Through their fundraising efforts and support of our parents,
they donated \$4,250 to each campus and \$1,000 to the Sam Dillard Memorial fund
for a total of \$9,500!**

Elementary Principal - Donna Hempelmann

As I look back at the 2008-2009 school year, it has been filled with unexpected things. Some of those things have been sad and difficult like the home going of our friend and colleague Mr. Sam Dilliard.

Thankfully, there have also been some good surprises and the best one has been the acquisition of SMARTboards. When school started, I had a whole different plan in mind for positive changes in the elementary school. However, when we realized that God had opened the door for something as

important and revolutionary as SMARTboards, we quickly changed our plans and spent most of the school year learning how to incorporate the new technology into our curriculum. We are far from finished learning how to use this exciting tool, but we are very excited about the possibilities they open to us as we educate our children.

Thank you for a great year and have a wonderful summer!



Mrs. Jennifer Schmidt and Mrs. Joy Womacks confer about SMARTboard technology.



Mrs. Jeanne Cole uses her SMARTboard during International Week.

High School Principal - Deborah Enos

As I was working through a Bible study assignment a few nights ago, I came across the following verse: "...Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it." Colossians 4:17 (HCSB)

What an honoring and sobering reminder of the call that God has placed on my life here at CCS. As I have begun planning for the fall, interviewing potential staff members, and interacting with new families, I have been reminded of the great privilege and responsibility I have been given.

I ask for your prayer support as I strive to lead the Junior High/ High School in becoming more of what God desires us to be. I am praying for unity of purpose, accountability, and mutual respect among administrators, staff, parents and students.

May God richly bless each of you!

Tuesday, August 18th

5:30 - 6:30 Elementary School building will be open.

6:00 - 7:00 High School building will be open.

7:00 - 7:20 All School Meeting in the High School gym.

7:20 - 8:15 Various activities at the High School Campus for Preschool - 12th Grade:

- **Purchase:**
 - Spiritwear
 - PE uniforms
 - Elementary uniform resale
 - Kroger gift cards
- Sign-up for organizations
- Learn about Fundraisers
- Ice Cream
- Hot air balloon rides for elementary students



Superintendent - Terry Diefenbacher

Continued from front page.

"Whatever!" I believe this word, "whatever" has been injected in our culture by design to send the message that everything is OK and that the "real truth", God's Word, is no longer relevant. I see this happening throughout our Christian communities and right here in Cincinnati. I fear that as Christians, many of us are being inoculated with a set of values our culture has adopted and all too often we go on with life unaware. I heard a statistic recently that suggested by the year 2035 Christian Education will be a thing of the past. I pray it is not so.

Parents, are we willing to teach our children how to stand for Christ and to be bold as we make every attempt to defend our faith? Other "religions" certainly are! I can assure you that our administration, teachers and staff are ready and willing to do it with passion because of the love Christ demonstrated to each one of us on the cross and because of the absolute Truth we hold dear in God's word.

The 2008-09 school year is one that still brings us to our knees. Please continue to pray for Mr. Dillard's family, Cheryl Williams - Junior High teacher with cancer and Jack Cheek - Cleaning Program Coordinator who recently had a stroke; the needs are many. Also continue to pray for the new Scholarship Program at CCS. It is beginning to bear fruit. I am looking forward to calling families who could no longer afford Christian Education and offer to them this scholarship opportunity for next year. Pray I can make many such calls. I have also included a list of facility projects that some of you, who can afford to help financially, have been able to give to. There are still many projects in need of financial support. If you wish to help, and we do need it, please call me at the school, 892.8500 extension 119; I would love to just talk to you about the exciting things happening at CCS this summer as well as our hopes and dreams for the future.

Forever humbled,
Terry Diefenbacher, Interim Superintendent

Website

Remember to check the school website for Summer Reading lists and back to school supply lists.

www.cincinnatichristian.org

Keep us informed

In an effort to keep our database up-to-date please remember to send us changes in address, phone and e-mail. Send to:

lcoombs@cincinnatichristian.org

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

To provide our CCS family with an update on the school's financial condition, the following summary of operating statistics is presented.

2005-06: This school year ended with a deficit of (\$54,131) with an enrollment of 632 students.

2006-07 & 2007-08: Together, these two years resulted in a slight surplus with growing enrollment levels to 648 and 678 students. This net surplus was realized due to substantial levels of donation income of \$323,579 and \$385,324.

2008-09: A deficit of (\$55,000) is projected for this school year. Several areas contributed

to this deficit. Student enrollment dropped by 21 students from the previous year to 657. Donation income declined from \$385,324 to nearly \$189,000. Loss of over \$100,000 in rental income from the church that used the chapel and office space had a significant impact.

2009-10: We continue to make adjustments to the forecast for next year. With the graduation of CCS' largest senior class and economic pressures, enrollment is projected to decline to 635. We have realized a re-enrollment rate of 85%, which is very good, but having to replace a graduating class of 77

seniors plus attract new families is proving to be challenging.

In light of these challenges, we have made some significant decisions to reduce operating costs. The Assistant High School Principal and the Development Director positions have been eliminated or consolidated into current administrative positions. Staff salary and benefits costs have come under close scrutiny. Given the attention to operating costs, understand that no program eliminations are currently planned for next year.

The School Board

gave the administration the directive to produce a balanced budget with no need for donation income to be utilized for operating expenses. The plan is that tuition and program income would cover operating costs so that all donations could be used for various capital projects. The exception would be for the appeal for funding the new scholarship program.

Please continue to pray for the School Board and staff as we make the plans and decisions necessary to provide the best Christ Centered education while maintaining fiscal control.

Actuals & Estimated 2005 - 2009

	ACTUAL 2005-06	ACTUAL 2006-07	ACTUAL 2007-08	ESTIMATED 2008-09
ENROLLMENT:	632	648	678	657
REVENUES:				
Tuition, Fees & Program Income	3,289,896	3,606,086	3,984,088	3,978,700
State Grants	184,712	189,000	198,021	205,200
Donations & Fundraising	259,139	323,579	385,324	189,300
Other Income	186,100	171,431	138,860	180,600
Total Revenues	3,919,847	4,290,096	4,706,293	4,553,800
EXPENSES:				
Salaries & Benefits	2,486,853	2,684,579	2,950,280	3,002,700
Financial Aid	173,882	187,997	246,885	304,300
Operating Expenses	867,553	1,025,723	1,113,637	992,500
Total Expenses	3,528,288	3,898,299	4,310,802	4,299,500
Surplus Before Capital Expenditures	391,559	391,797	395,491	254,300
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:				
Debt Service	369,278	318,193	290,112	278,700
Building Improvements, Computers, Furniture & Equipment	76,412	77,734	99,699	30,600
	445,690	395,927	389,811	309,300
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(54,131)	(4,130)	5,680	(55,000)

2009 Summer Facility Improvements at CCS



Elementary Cafeteria - New floor and other improvements
\$11,500.00 ... Totally Unfunded

High School Cafeteria - Total tear out and upgrade plus storage addition
\$5,400.00 ... 100% Funded

Security Cameras in older part of High School Building
\$8,800.00 ... 15% Funded

Door security to and from Science Lab
\$4,900.00 ... Totally unfunded

Landscape maintenance for total grounds
\$4,200.00 ... Totally unfunded

Total blacktop resurface of drop off area at High School with safety walkway for students
\$24,500.00 ... 50% funded

**What's
Already
Started**

Our passion is to be honorable stewards of our facilities and provide clean, attractive facilities for our students and families. If your family can help by partnering with me and other families to make these projects a reality, please call me at the number below.

Should you have any questions or comments please call me at your convenience on my cell phone. I can be reached at 313-3638.

Thank You,
Terry Diefenbacher

