

President's Report to the CCS Society Winter 2017



CCS Vision Statement: Calvin Christian School will thrive as a provider of distinctively Christian elementary and secondary education and will lead the larger community to adopt Christian education as a priority.

Recently I was sitting across the lunch table from one of our CCS “early adopters,” one of the pioneers in developing a CCS Christian education as an option and alternative in the Twin Cities metropolitan community of the early 1960’s. One of her questions to me was, “so where is CCS growing now?”

That question gave me an open door to talk about growth. Here’s what we talked about.

In 2016-17 Calvin Christian saw enrollment growth. While the growth was six students, we hope that the enrollment trajectory has started an upward curve.

The culture of collaboration has grown at CCS. Now more than ever, cross-campus and cross-discipline collaboration is occurring to the benefit of CCS students. One of the platforms for this collaboration is the Teaching for Transformation (TfT) initiative, which is now in year three. Teachers are working across campuses to share ideas, to learn from each other, to challenge each other, and to help each other redesign their teaching to drive towards not only knowing, but also responding to God’s call to be active in his work of bringing healing to all areas of life. Professional learning communities have become part of the fabric of faculty interactions, a place where TfT and professional development can join hands, so to speak, and begin to live consistently at the level of teacher leadership and collaboration. The high school faculty redesigned their professional space into an open, flexible environment, making it possible for them to be increasingly collaborative with interdisciplinary planning and working with students. All of these initiatives are example of ways the learning community at CCS is growing through collaboration.

CCS’s footprint in the education world has grown. More of our students are competing with their peers in academic contests with great success. For the third year in a row, one of CCS’s middle school students presented their research through the science fair, and continued on to be chosen as one of the top 300 presentations in the nation.

A middle school teacher is a leader under contract with Christian Schools International, a national association of Christian schools throughout the US and Canada, to lead the way in integrating faith with the Next Generation Science Standards. She has had numerous opportunities to present at multiple regional and national conferences for middle school teachers.

Our student body diversity has grown. Whether it be enrolling international students from Asia, Europe and Latin America, mainstreaming students with special learning needs, or serving students who are struggling in other educational environments, we are giving a growing variety of students an educational home at CCS and helping them thrive in our learning community. And the entire student body benefits.

So where can we expect growth as we move forward?

Let's work together to grow the number of students benefiting from a high quality Christian education at CCS. Let's think deeply about what CCS's education will look like in the future, especially our northern campuses, one which needs updating and refreshing, and one which is getting tight around our student body. Let's benefit from the fresh ideas and energy of a new leader.

Continued growth will propel CCS towards *thriving as a provider of distinctively Christian elementary and secondary education*. As a community, let's work together to make it happen.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Randy Kroll
President