

# CASE for SUPPORT

We are seeking financial support from local churches to aid Covenant Christian School in its mission to raise up godly boys and girls who glorify Christ in the community, workplace, church, home and school.



## CASE SUMMARY

One of the greatest challenges facing the modern-day church in western culture is reaching our youth. Many churches have robust youth programs, but is that enough? Why is it that nearly 8 in every 10 students walk away from the church by age 17? Why is depression and mental illness on the rise in youth today? Why are our younger generations filled with anxiety and stress that doesn't seem to ease?

At Covenant Christian School (CCS) we believe that strong relationships are the answer—a strong relationship with Jesus Christ, and relationships between youth and Christians of all ages. These relationships are foundational to CCS's philosophy of education and ministry, and we are on mission, alongside churches and families in the Aurora area, to build strong faith and community with our youth.

Like any mission, we are donor funded. We intentionally price our tuition at an affordable rate, making it possible for more families to be part of our CCS community and receive a strong, Christ-centered education, but that means tuition alone does not cover our expenses. We need financial partners to move our mission forward.

**Would you consider becoming a Mission Donor?**

## ABOUT CCS

**Mission:** Covenant Christian School is a Christ-centered, loving, educational community committed to inspiring children to excellence in character, scholarship, and leadership.

**Vision:** The school's vision is to provide a financially affordable education for families who desire to see their students spiritually aflame, racially diverse, academically excellent, technologically advanced, and educated in a permanent, modern facility that is debt free and financially endowed for the future.

### Current Enrollment:

CCS was established in 1979. In 2019 CCS was honored by the Aurora City Council for 40 years of service to more than 4,000 students from diverse backgrounds and economic challenges. For over forty years CCS has welcomed students from all walks of life into a vibrant Christ-filled and Christ-led community. We are committed to meeting every student where they are at, and helping them to grow in faith, relationships, character, and academic excellence. Specifically, we offer the following programs:

### SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

CCS has been developing a unique comprehensive program that addresses the "whole person" when ministering to students. The Harvest Program serves students with speech and language difficulties (LIPS), learning disabilities (A.D.O.R.E.), academic delays (Resource), social deficits (Social Skills), spiritual counselling needs (in conjunction with area churches), and giftedness (Reapers).

## COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

CCS is in partnership with Judson University in Elgin, Illinois. CCS students have joined the university for various activities, including participation in their annual Judson Christmas program. The Judson choir performs annually for CCS students and families, and their Artist in Residence, Dr. Huntley Brown, joins CCS in an annual benefit concert. The CCS high school students also have the unique opportunity of participating in Judson's dual credit program.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The school also provides the following activities and services:

- Library/Technology
- Extended Care Program (before and after school care)
- Hot Lunch Program
- Reach Out & Give Program (Student outreach to community organizations such as Salvation Army, nursing homes, St. Charles Veterans Center, Feed the Starving Children, etc.)
- Missions Week and Pastor Luncheon
- Community Week
- Band and Music Program
- Art Program
- Homeschool Family Outreach
- Sports Program: Soccer, Basketball, and Track

## OUR HISTORY AND IMPACT

### IS OUR IMPACT WORTH INVESTING IN?

CCS has had a tremendous impact on students over the years. Many of CCS's alumni are entrepreneurs, business leaders, teachers, musicians, and more. Several alumni operate their own businesses, with one who owns a multi-million dollar business in the Aurora area. Another is a long-time news anchor on news radio WBBM and a pastor at Village Bible Church. Our students graduate CCS with strong faith, character, leadership skills, and a desire to impact our greater community.

## CURRENT STUDENT STORIES

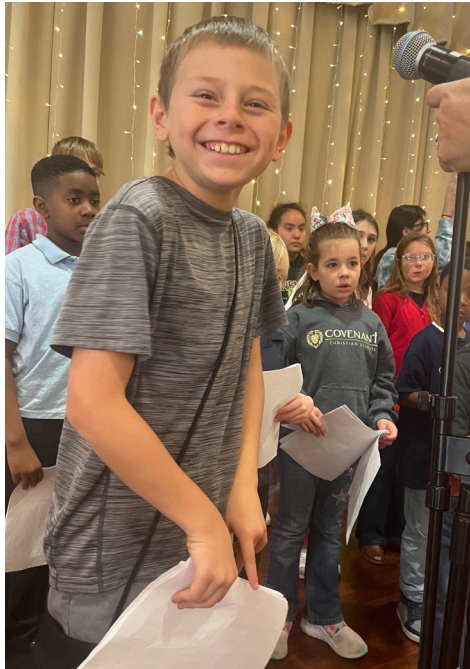
### HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE (MRS. MATSON)

Each year, the graduating class is tasked with devising fundraising ideas to finance their class graduation field trip and celebratory event. Several years ago, one enterprising student conceived an idea for an all-school fun fair at CCS. This student took the initiative to present her event concept and business plan to the principal, who quickly supported the plan. She then, with the assistance of some classmates, orchestrated every facet of the event, from planning the various games and activities to coordinating the food options and entertainment, all designed to generate revenue for the graduating class. This creative endeavor has evolved into a cherished annual tradition at CCS.

### A CHANGED LIFE (MR. MAINKA)

I have the joy and privilege of working with students who face a variety of challenges, each bringing their own unique stories and experiences into the classroom.

One sixth grader, in particular, came to CSS struggling deeply with feelings of rejection and instability because of his history as a foster child and being on the spectrum. Starting the 2023 school year as an emotional, impulsive, and distracted student, his journey of transformation was profound! Through engaging daily with the word of God and attending weekly chapel services, God got a hold of his hurting heart and developed a curious hunger for his word. He began to bring his Bible to school, making every effort to read it whenever he could. As he immersed himself in scripture, I noticed a shift in his demeanor; he became more confident and open, and his interactions with his classmates improved greatly. By the end of the school year, he expressed his feelings to me as his teacher in a way that truly touched my heart. With a grateful heart, he recognized the personal attention and care I had dedicated to shepherding his



and he is thriving spiritually and growing in every aspect of his education. Every teacher at CCS has acknowledged his growth in character and respect for authority. It is incredibly rewarding to witness his transformation and to see him embrace the grace of God and the opportunities that come with new beginnings. His journey is a testament to the power of Christ, the power of faith, community, and the unwavering support that we strive to provide at Covenant Christian School. All glory to God!

### STORY OF AN ANGEL (MRS. HAPNER)

Just last year, an amazing thing happened in my class. A little angelic girl came to third grade from another school. She had told her mom that she wanted to go to a school where Jesus

character and faith, and said I was the best teacher he ever had! He shared how much CCS had changed his life. This did not take me by surprise, since the supportive environment at Covenant Christian School prioritizes the development of our students, but it was a powerful reminder of the impact that a caring educational environment can have on a child's emotional and spiritual growth.

In short, this student has had a remarkable turnaround. He constantly expresses now how much he loves school and the Lord,

was talked about, and she wanted to talk about Him too, so her mom brought her to Covenant. When it was time for her to complete her daily assignments, I soon realized she was not functioning at grade level. I worked with her at a lower grade level, and amazingly, she completed a year and a half of work during that year. She is such a diligent, determined child. She returned this year just as determined, and is functioning at grade level. She loves Jesus and radiates His love to all of us at school!



## WHY DO PARENTS CHOOSE COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?

Many parents are seeking a Christian education where their students can thrive and have a powerful impact on a community. Here are some of the specific reasons parents are choosing CCS:

- Close family atmosphere
- Spiritual atmosphere
- Higher academic challenge for their student
- Disappointment with public schools and liberal agendas
- Bad influences and experiences of bullying in public schools
- Older siblings attending public school were a negative influence on their younger sibling, and the parents felt the need to have positive influences for their child
- Parents who attended CCS when they were younger with good memories that they want for their kids
- Parents with an ADHA/autistic child want the small one-on-one positive and controlled atmosphere of a small class
- A homeschool family desired a school that holds similar Christian values to transition their students
- Parents with students attending another Christian school saw a loss of financial aid and checked online to compare Christian schools to CCS
- Church pastor recommendations
- Recommendation from other current/former CCS parents
- The location of the school in Aurora
- Impressed by the racial diversity
- Speech, social, spiritual and learning needs met through the CCS Harvest Program
- The desire for their student to participate in the High School dual credit program through Judson University



## OUR VISION AND GOALS

Our vision is to provide a financially affordable education for families who desire to see their students spiritually aflame, racially diverse, academically excellent, technologically advanced, and educated in a permanent, modern facility that is debt free and financially endowed for the future.

Our immediate goal is to have an enrollment of 50 students, to have a balanced budget with adequate and consistent pay for our teachers and staff, and to be working toward a permanent location for the school.

## OUR NEED

**Permanent Location:** CCS faces a continual enrollment difficulty due to not having a permanent location. We have moved locations twice in the last two years due to circumstances outside our control, and with each move there has been a loss of enrollment. The dynamics of physically moving a school are challenging, and make it very difficult to have a continuity of programs and resources.

**Transportation:** With Judson University's dual credit program, our students have the opportunity to receive both high school and college credit for some courses, but we have not been able to take full advantage of the program due to a lack of transportation to and from the campus.

**Payroll Funding:** Because of reduced enrollment and intentionally low tuition rates, we do not have the funding to cover all of our expenses, to the extent that our teachers have had to take pay cuts, and our principal has donated much of her time. This is not a sustainable or desirable practice, and our programs, services, and morale are all negatively affected by the financial strain.

CCS needs a consistent income stream to maintain operations and teacher pay, and fully support our partnerships and programs for students and their families.

We are looking to fill our funding gap with Mission Donors, allowing other funds raised to go toward a permanent location and transportation, so that we can continue to provide a quality Christian education for families in the Aurora area.

**Will you help CCS continue its mission by becoming a Mission Donor?**

## WHAT IS A MISSION DONOR?

Many churches support missionaries regularly as part of their monthly budget. We are seeking churches and individuals to partner with CCS in the same way, by giving a regular monthly donation to the school to support its mission.

Christian schools serve as a training ground for future missionaries and Christian professionals, and are mission fields for the church with a great opportunity for impact. CCS, a Christian school offering an affordable private education to families from all walks of life, is exactly where church dollars should be directed. It's time to have an intentional impact by investing in our youth, whom God has gifted to do great things. God dreams big and does great and big things. We want to be an active part of that adventure.

Together we can invest in our youth, help them grow, cultivate deep and lasting relationships and have a far-reaching impact by sending them out into the world equipped to do what God has created them to do. Let's change the statistics—no more 8 out of 10 young people walking away from their faith—let's see 8 out of 10 young people pour back into their schools and churches because of their faith!

# CALL TO ACTION

## PARTNER WITH CCS BY BECOMING A MISSION DONOR!

To keep our doors open, we need ten churches committed to partnering with CCS as Mission Donors. Mission Donors support the school with regular monthly donations (1 year minimum commitment, renewable).

1. Fill out a CCS Mission Donor Information Form
2. Receive Mission board approval
3. Tax information exchanged\*
4. Establish a proper giving channel (check, direct deposit, etc.)
5. Receive regular CCS newsletter updates to donors with acknowledgement of your church as a CCS mission donor
6. Receive regular bi-annual giving statements

*\*We are not for profit (501c3), so all donations are tax deductible.*

**We can meet with you to create a giving plan that fits your needs, let's get started!**

