



Vision 2030

Building the Next Decade of Leaders

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.
-Colossians 3:17

Why Are We Here? *Exceptional Education, Formed in Faith*

At Carroll Lutheran School our students are thriving. Journey through the halls of CLS, and you will encounter a harmony of scholarship and discipleship, of faith and of life. You will find light for today in the kindness of our students and hope for tomorrow in knowing that they are prepared to meet the challenges of the decades to come.

Carroll Lutheran School provides an academically rigorous education for students in grades K-8, inspired and sustained by the Love of Christ. Each student is valued as a unique learner. A top priority is placed on recognizing and respecting learning needs among students, using up-to-date learning strategies that guide students to achieve attitudes of self-confidence, discipline and responsibility while serving as models for each other.

Who Are We? *Meet our CLS Family*

Students at CLS come from a range of financial, social, racial, and denominational backgrounds. Students also come from diverse academic subsets, including those identified as gifted and talented as well as those who have diagnosed learning differences such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, and language processing delays. Although most CLS students hail from the central-Carroll County area, the quality of education and community at CLS has also led families in Baltimore and Frederick Counties and Southern Pennsylvania to choose CLS for their children.

What Makes Us Different? *Rigorous Education, Sustained by the Love of Christ*

Each CLS student is offered an opportunity to thrive in “just right” learning groups. Above all, CLS teachers, staff, and peers recognize that each student is a child of God, blessed with unique gifts and a story to be written.

CLS provides high quality academics, certified staff, academic support, and a safe secure campus. We believe that students are best served when education is tailored to students’ individual learning methods. Small class sizes and differentiated instructional groups support this approach. Even more importantly CLS delivers faith supported education, focuses on higher level thinking, implements leadership development for all ages, and holds community care and service as a core value. All of this while maintaining safety standards during COVID.

CLS’ teaching faculty spend 98% of the academic year in instructional time (versus administering standardized tests). Yet, as it serves students with learning differences and a wide range of inherent gifts, CLS’ academic results prove its methods effective. In the 2018-19 school year, 30% of CLS students scored at or above the 90th percentile nationally in reading and math. Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans are included in these statistics and are meeting or exceeding their yearly progress goals. In the face of a pandemic, CLS opened its doors to 118 students in September, 2020, nearly doubling its previous student population. Months of planning and hard work came to fruition in a school year that has provided safe, in-person instruction for all students. With COVID protocols in place, students have continued to attend Specials classes like Art and PE, socialize at lunch and recess, participate in

community service outreach projects, develop their faith life through prayer and worship, and enjoy social events and in-house programs. Although the level of academic rigor has been challenging for some of our new students, we have expanded our staff and our instructional technology to meet the needs of our new student body, ensuring that each child can succeed.

CLS nourishes tomorrow's leaders in the transformative power of the Gospel. While some students' families are connected with churches prior to coming to CLS, the school is often a student's first introduction to regular Christian worship, education and discipleship. Faith Studies is an integral part of offering students leadership opportunities. Every morning begins with a student-led prayer, and each Wednesday afternoon includes a school-wide student-engaged chapel service plus school days end with the Lord's Prayer. Students are encouraged to put their faith into action through a wide variety of service opportunities throughout the school year.

Where Do We Need Your Help?

CLS' students, staff, families and board are prepared to take the school to new heights forming the next decade of leaders. To do so, there are several investments that are vital to carry out our mission:

i. ***Making Exceptional Education Accessible to Every Child by keeping our tuition within reach.***

Full tuition for the 2021-2022 school year is \$7,500, well below our financial break-even. Many of our existing families stretch to make either their full tuition payment, or to meet a reduced tuition amount based on financial need. Any given year we have 82% of students either receiving tuition discounts or reduced tuition. Our goal is that while every family at CLS makes a financial investment in its child(ren)'s education, that finances alone do not determine a student's educational path.

ii. ***Growing Enrollment by reaching new families.***

Many families in our area have never considered private school because they believed its cost is out of reach or simply because they had never heard of CLS. The global COVID pandemic changed that. Suddenly, families were looking for in-person instructional alternatives for their children. In the summer of 2020, we could hardly keep up with the interest calls and tours for prospective families. Some of the families had been considering private school for some time, and the pandemic pushed them to make a decision. Other families had not previously considered private school, but knew that their students needed safe, in-person instruction. By the time we opened on September 8th, our student population had nearly doubled. The early fruits of our efforts with these new families have been encouraging, as over 85% of currently enrolled students are already re-enrolled for next year and we have received more than 25 applications for new students for the 2021-2022 school year. We are hopeful that the CLS experience is one that families will stay for, as they see the value of a private school education for their student. However, we can't be sure what our enrollment numbers will look like when public schools eventually fully reopen for students. In the meantime, while tuition revenue is up, the larger student population also required an upfront investment of cash for staffing, technology, and textbooks that put a strain on CLS' annual budget.

iii. ***Shoring up CLS' finances for the generations to come.***

As CLS was building its current home in 2007, a small capital campaign was launched and successfully raised \$500,000 towards the total construction and equipment cost of over \$3,000,000. Unfortunately, most of these initial costs were met via mortgage financing, and the majority of that mortgage balance still exists today. For CLS to continue serving students beyond the near-term, it is vital for our community to grow both its student body and its philanthropic support. A successful campaign will allow us to restructure CLS' mortgage in a more sustainable manner, letting us reinvest for years to come in student curriculum, staff development, technology and space upgrades and community partnerships.



Our History

CLS was founded by the Lutheran churches of the Westminster Conference in 1998 to provide a place where academic success and Christian faith could flourish together. In CLS' charter, the member churches of the Westminster Conference appoint a Board of Trustees, who directs the overall mission and strategy of the school. Various committees of the Board oversee the school's educational curriculum, finances, governance, human resources, physical property, and marketing. The board and its committees are composed of parents, community and business leaders, clergy, and lay members of CLS' constituent churches.

The staff of CLS are certified, energetic, and passionate professionals who place students as their highest priority. CLS' staff is led by Principal Mandy Gilbert. Mrs. Gilbert is supported by Lead Teachers Jane Drozinski and Jeffrey Kane.

Parents, grandparents, and other family members are active volunteers at CLS, pitching in both proactively and as requested by CLS staff. Parents/guardians form our *Family Partnership Program (FPP)*, which exists to support the ongoing needs of our school community through volunteerism, feedback and fundraising.

Our students are at the center of every decision we make. They are the reason why the school was formed, and they are the embodiment of CLS' mission. CLS students are surrounded by a community of family, staff, and board leadership who recognize their value as children of God, and encourage them to learn, grow, and fully develop the gifts God has given them.

CLS' board and staff stand fully behind our mission and this campaign. 100% of the board and 100% of staff have pledged monetary gifts to the Campaign, totaling more than \$350,000.