



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*

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 proven learning methods that guide students to achieve discipline, self-confidence, and responsibility while serving as models for one another.

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 been diagnosed with 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, highly-trained staff, academic support, and a safe, secure campus. CLS’ teaching faculty spend 98% of the academic year in instructional time (versus administering standardized tests).

We believe that students are best served when education is tailored to student’s individual learning needs. 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 service as a core value.

CLS closed the 2022-23 academic year with 116 students, having approximately doubled since before the COVID-19 pandemic. With a larger student population, we have expanded our staff and our instructional technology to meet the needs of our student body to ensure that every child succeeds to the best of his or her God-given ability.

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 and public-speaking opportunities. Every morning begins with a student-led prayer, and Wednesday afternoons include a school-wide, student-engaged chapel service. School days conclude 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?

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

Tuition for the 2023-2024 school year is \$8,175, which is 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. Last year, 57% of students received some form of tuition assistance or need-based financial aid. Our goal is that while every family at CLS makes a financial investment in its child(ren)'s education, no family will be turned away for financial reasons.

ii. ***Reaching new families to grow and renew our CLS community.***

Many families have never considered private school because they believe its cost is out of reach or simply because they have never heard about CLS. We hope to continue changing those perceptions with grassroots word-of-mouth marketing, as well as targeted digital and traditional media. This is an evergreen effort as existing students graduate, and as new families are formed or relocated.

iii. ***Investing in staff attraction, development, and retention.***

Teachers and staff at CLS make tremendous investments of time and talent in our mission. They also forego what would be materially higher compensation through the public school system. In order to attract, develop and retain the highest caliber teachers and staff, we aim to better bridge the gap between staff compensation and development at CLS and best practices for K-8 schools nationwide.

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, philanthropy, 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 qualified, energetic, and passionate student-first professionals. CLS' staff is led by Principal Mandy Gilbert and supported by Lead Teachers Jane Drozinski and Jeffrey Kane.

Parents, grandparents, and other family members are active volunteers at CLS. 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.

To date, *Vision 2030* has raised over \$500,000 for the furtherance of CLS' mission.