





What defines us ...





Shaping Hearts Challenging Minds Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders







### **Our Mission**

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The mission of Cambridge **Christian School** is to glorify God in all that we do; to demonstrate excellence at every level of academic, athletic and artistic involvement; to develop strength of character; and to serve the local and global community.

## **Foundation**







Josh Eicholtz, class of 2004, supporting Bible Translation through Aviation with Wycliffe / JAARS. Josh is a pilot, flying in Papua New Guinea. Jesus used wonderful parables to instruct us in how to live our lives. One of the most notable lessons can be found in Matthew when He gave us the Sermon on the Mount and discussed the importance of a strong foundation.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

A strong foundation is important in education and in life. Our 800 plus alumni are a wonderful testament to this! From the mission field, to the nation's most prestigious military academies. to everything in between, they have relied on the fundamental academic and faith based skills we feel are so vital to thriving in today's economic and social climate. From an academic perspective, Cambridge believes that foundational skills like cursive writing, physical education and music classes are a vital part of the educational process. While many schools have cut back in these areas, the research shows that they are a necessary part of a child's cognitive and physical development. We combine 21st century technology, Engaged Learning techniques and strong fundamentals early on to help develop a well-rounded student prepared for the academic rigors of college life. Likewise, we believe a strong spiritual foundation creates a well-rounded individual. Our daily Bible classes, weekly Chapel services, grade level retreats and small groups all help lay the groundwork for a graduate that is prepared for the rigors of life. While there are no guarantees, we believe that helping

your child build a strong spiritual foundation is a wise endeavor, bringing forth the opportunity to thrive amidst the trials and living a life filled with security, peace and joy.

Once a Lancer, Always a Lancer.





Cambridge Christian School (CCS) is fully accredited by Christian Schools of Florida (CSF), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) (otherwise known as AdvancEd), and the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA). These three organizations provide us with state, regional and national accreditation, and SACS is the accreditor for colleges and public schools in the southeast United States. All of these groups, working in conjunction with one another, provide us with external "eyes" of accountability to ensure that we are providing academic excellence with a Biblical worldview.



Further. Athletics and the Arts will not be sacrificed at CCS. While many public school systems have been forced to cut in these areas, our programs have expanded and gained a winning reputation by every definition of the word. CCS is a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and competes for state championships. Our Art Department participates in juried shows, we have a robust band and choir program, and our Fine Arts Department holds yearly Broadway musicals to showcase our students' talents and abilities.

Rigor is not sacrificed at CCS. We offer a full complement of Advanced Placement (AP)

courses, and we continue to graduate National Merit Scholars. Our AP passing rate has increased each of the last five years and university admissions offices have expressed a high regard for our alumni. For example, the acceptance rate at the University of Florida (UF) for the class of 2014, was 90%, whereas the state of Florida acceptance rate to UF is 45%. In recent years, our graduating classes have averaged close to \$80,000 per student in college scholarship offers. Amongst our 22 years of alumni are physicians, prominent Tampa area attorneys, an International Trade Specialist at the US Dept. of Commerce, legislative aides, engineers, and pilots, just to name a few. These alumni have been equipped to engage and impact culture both professionally and spiritually.

While many schools can claim to offer a college preparatory education, we feel it is important to provide our students with a "life preparatory" environment. Life preparatory speaks of a strong foundation for students to flourish, where a Biblical Worldview cannot be undervalued. A strong academic curriculum is important but research indicates that the success of a graduate is assisted by a strong spiritual foundation. Preparing for college is important; preparing for life is essential. The development of a well-rounded student is Cambridge's mission and the ministry to which we commit ourselves each and every day.

Challenge me, Encourage me, Prepare me.

## College and Life Preparatory

The Cardus Education Survey (2011) concluded that "unlike their peers in other schools, Christian school graduates do not report feeling hopeless when dealing with problems in life. They have more optimism and hope for the future and have the tools to engage in healthy relationships and deal with the difficulties in their life."



# Relationships



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He is the example we follow.

- We believe in trusting Him; with our relationships, our finances, and our lives (Proverbs 3:5).
- We believe in communicating with Him through an active and healthy prayer life (Colossians 4:2).
- We believe in listening, which is a vital part of the communication process (Proverbs 2: 1-5).

At Cambridge, we put a high value on relationships. Our relationships with parents are a partnership; we work closely with you to help your child become the person God created them to be. Our relationships with students are one of discipleship and mentorship, providing instruction and guidance during the most pivotal years of growth and maturity. Relationships between students are characterized by encouragement and healthy competition. This focus on relationships does not go unnoticed. Every year, we receive emails and calls from parents at other schools and members of the

community who notice "something different" going on at Cambridge. This year, our Upper School Principal was stopped by some of the employees where we hold our grade level retreats. They went on and on about our student's politeness and kindness and how they look forward to our school coming every year. What struck them the most, however, was "how these kids take care of each other." One of them said, "You don't understand, we just don't see that. It means so much to us to see a group of kids caring and looking out for each other the way your kids do."

Most of us would agree that the two most important aspects to making relationships work are trust and communication. Why is this important and where do we go to see that example? At CCS, the most important relationship any of us can have is with Christ. It's where all our relationships begin and end. Through faith, hearts are changed, and when hearts are changed, growth occurs, and through growth comes maturity.

Mature, loving relationships with each other and with our Creator are the center of life at CCS.







Here are the 3 most important ways we try to leave a legacy every day:

Legacy of Excellence

An important statement in our mission reads, "To demonstrate excellence at every level of academic, athletic and artistic involvement." This commitment to excellence is evident in the awards.



achievements and accolades across our campus. Additionally, the academic and vocational success of our alumni is certainly something we are proud of, however, following Colossians 3:23, we believe in working with excellence no matter who is watching or what the earthly prize may be. Mediocrity abounds and is easily achieved but doing things with excellence takes work! Our students are taught that working hard to the best of their abilities and having integrity are the cornerstones to a lifelong habit of excellence. While all schools want excellence, doing so for the Lord, brings with it a sense of joy and inner peace that aren't dependent on

earthly rewards. In this way, even the most menial of tasks can become an act of praise!

#### Legacy of Service

Students at CCS serve the community, school and each other. They serve the local and global community through yearly mission trips sponsored by our

Fine Arts and Athletic Departments. Upper School Key Club members serve the homeless, monthly, at Trinity Café in Tampa and our Lower School Christian Student Leadership Council for 5th and 6th grades work to raise funds for Hope Children's Home. Our CCS Ambassadors are chosen to serve the school as leaders and representatives of the Lancer legacy in action. Many of these Ambassadors also serve other students as Small Group Leaders, working with underclassmen to help them grow in their faith, character, and commitment to service. Again, we look to Jesus as the greatest example of this legacy. Mark 10: 43-45 reminds us that to be great, you must first be humble and learn to serve others. Each student has been given wonderful gifts. It is with these God-given gifts, we believe, that students should go forth to serve others and change the world.

Legacy of Love

What legacy do you want your child to receive and leave? Is it one of wealth? Valuables? Career? As adults, we know all these things can make life easier but we also know they are temporary. Fortunes and jobs can be lost at any moment. It is wise, as parents, to invest in a legacy that will not pass with time; a legacy that will help them create a fulfilling life, not just a successful one. That legacy is love. Paul teaches us in Corinthians that all things in life will pass but that love endures. The imparting of knowledge with excellence is critical to our mission as a college preparatory school, but love edifies. The development and growth of a child's heart and spiritual life is the cornerstone of our ministry and the legacy which we are most grateful for.

### Legacy

The dictionary would define the word legacy as a gift or bequest, handed down from an ancestor or predecessor.

Because of this commonly known definition, we often think of a legacy as something that is handed down after we are gone. In fact, many schools have "legacy" events celebrating successful alumni and endowments given to the school from those that have passed.

As we celebrate over 50 years serving the Tampa Bay area, we consider all those to be important reasons, but legacy, to us, means something more. Legacy at CCS is something that happens in the present; the sharing of knowledge and values now takes precedent over the sharing of money and valuables later.



Building a Legacy, one Life at a time, for over 50 years.



Cambridge Christian School

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