

SPRING 2020

Connections

Purpose
Passion
Principles



Developing
Leaders
at CCS





*Shawn Minks, M.Ed.
Head of School*

Developing Leaders for Tomorrow

I will never forget the card my 6th grade teacher gave me at the end of the year. It contained a quote: “A ship in harbor is safe, but that’s not what ships were built for.” Apart from the distraction of ending with a preposition, this motivational quote by John A. Shedd continues to impact my life. God has regularly brought it back to my mind when faced with major life decisions. As one that might otherwise err on the side of caution, I have instead chosen to take chances and lead, due, in part, to recalling this simple declaration.

Why would one sentence hold so much sway in my life? After all, it is not Scripture, though I could cite many parallel Bible passages (2 Tim. 1:7; Deut. 31:6). It is a mere series of words and punctuation. It holds power because of the trust I had developed in this teacher. Mr. Chuck Schlitz believed in me as a leader – a role I had not identified in myself. He modeled relational leadership for me. He put me in leadership positions to which I may not have otherwise even aspired. At the time, he probably didn’t even see the significance, but his investment in me set the table for my personal, professional, and ministry relationships the rest of my life.

I am not trying to make this Connections edition about me. I simply want you to know that this is our approach to training in leadership at Cambridge Christian School. Like seemingly everything else that matters, it is borne of relationship. Yes, we have specialized student leadership programs at CCS wherein roughly 15% of our students are trained in leadership and provided opportunities to apply what they learn. However, in many cases, the leadership principles that will stick are the ones taught and modeled by our teachers and coaches moment to moment, day after day. Biblical leadership will be “caught” as students observe staff doing the right thing instead of the easy thing. It will be transferred to the next generation when we, as parents, provide consistent Biblical training at home, in church, and in school (Kingdom Education). It will be embraced when we acknowledge that anything good in us has come only from God, and that we are completely reliant on Him. The effectiveness of my leadership is directly proportional to the degree to which I am following the lead of my Savior. Tragically, countless examples have demonstrated outcomes of following only others or ourselves.

We are not training our students to be power hungry. We are training them to walk humbly in leadership before the One Who holds the power. These are the types of leaders that will change the world. Changing the world is just the kind of thing God does through people. We want our students to be equipped and eager should those opportunities be presented.





Do you believe that critical thinkers are really developed at Christian schools?

At Cambridge Christian School, the development of critical thinking is integral to a Kingdom education. Learning to reason, observe, analyze and reflect on information are useful skills in all areas of work and life. You will know when you encounter Cambridge graduates, not by the answers they give, but by the questions they ask.



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Connections

Spring 2020 Issue — A publication of
Cambridge Christian School

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Connections, an outreach of Cambridge Christian School, is sent to you as alumni, family and friends of Christian education in Tampa. *Connections* is published twice a year to share information about the programs, activities, and people of Cambridge Christian School.

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Our Mission

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.

Visit our website to discover more. CCSLancers.com



Leading in Lower School - CHRISTIAN STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

CSLC (Christian Student Leadership Council) is a Lower School fifth and sixth grade student leadership group led by Lower School Principal, Mr. Jonathan Valdez and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Tracy Moss. Our group verse is 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in faith and in purity." The purpose of this organization is to help develop elementary students into future leaders. We feel the best way to learn how to lead is through serving [2 Corinthians 4]. These students are given opportunities to serve their fellow students as well as the local and global community. Service projects for the year include serving at weekly Lower School Chapels, raising and lowering the outside flags, coordinating the shoebox drive for New Missions in Haiti, helping stock the food pantry at Oak Grove Elementary School, promoting and organizing the Carnation Sale Day in February, serving grandparents at Grandparents Day, and helping fill the urgent food needs at Hope Children's Home. These students are getting the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus by interacting directly with the children and organizations they are serving and personally delivering food items and spending time with children in need.

**For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory that far
out weighs them all.**

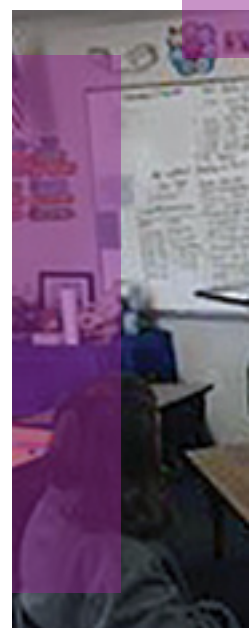
Leading in Middle School - THE HOUSE COUNCIL

Middle school's House Council serves as the leadership group for the seventh and eighth grade students. Comprised of eighth-grade students, this group assists in planning all middle school activities, such as Homecoming week, semester parties, 6th grade move up, and others. Students do not run for a position on House Council, so this is not a popularity contest. The council is selected by the middle school faculty. While the teachers do care about the classroom diligence and effort of the candidates, grades are not a deciding factor in selecting students for the council. Character, kindness, willingness to serve, and leadership potential are the traits evaluated.



Developing Leaders at CCS

Developing Leaders for Tomorrow



Faculty Leadership



Congratulations to one of our very gifted faculty members. Kimberly Phinney, Head of our English Department, is the winner of the University of Chicago's OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD! Mrs. Phinney was nominated by alumna Hannah Brody '19. Mrs. Phinney consistently challenges our students intellectually, helps develop their critical thinking skills, gain new perspectives, and apply their new insight in productive ways. We are so proud of our amazing faculty and how they pour into our students each and every day.





Leading in Upper School - STUDENT PROGRAMS

Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Campbell encourage students to lead within our high school program. They love when students like Gracie Lightbody approach them to share their vision for a new club or organization. Gracie is currently working with Mrs. Gibson to organize a new chapter of FCA for our middle and high school programs. Last year, a group of students approached Mr. Campbell about creating a club to celebrate diversity, and, as a result, the Cultural Heritage Committee was launched. The committee produced materials to educate and celebrate Hispanic Heritage, Black History, Women's History, and Asian Culture. They also organized several successful events that the Upper School community enjoyed. This year, this committee has been absorbed by the High School Student Council leadership.

Leadership continues to be cultivated among the student body through various organizations that seek to develop leadership skills and to serve locally, globally and right here on our campus.

- **SLi**
- **SLi, Food Service Campus Connection**
- **FLBL (Future Lancer Business Leaders)**
- **Student Council**
- **Professional Panels during advisory**
- **GRACE Council**

SLi Now nearly 70 students strong, SLi is easily the largest leadership group on campus. Their main focus is threefold:

- Train students in servant leadership.
- Provide opportunities to apply training.
- Unpack all perspectives of current cultural controversial topics.

SLI CAMPUS CONNECTION - FOOD SERVICE

The SLi Campus Connection of Food Service is celebrating its third year at Cambridge. Since 2017, this campus connection has continued to evolve and gain momentum. It originated with the focus of raising funds through student-led organized lunches for the purpose of investing the profits into school projects that would enhance the US campus. After the first year, the group raised enough funds to make improvements in the boys' bathroom, girls' and boys' locker rooms, and install water spigots into the water fountains to fill water bottles. They have also generated enough funds to purchase a large water cooler to use during lunches and two outside fans which were installed on the junior and senior decks. Each of these projects was managed by the Food Service Student Leadership. The students organize all aspects of each lunch as well as the projects they determine to support. This year they have set the goal of coordinating monthly lunches, and they are currently working on determining their campus enhancement projects. These student leaders are learning how to execute plans and services, as well as identify areas of need that are within their reach to impact. They are dedicated and very entrepreneurial in spirit.

FLBL (FUTURE LANCER BUSINESS LEADERS)

This new club emerged out of creative conversations between Mrs. Gibson and alumni Justin Salemy which stemmed from his participation in our US

professional panels. Justin's participation on the professional panel prompted a personal desire to reconnect with CCS students. The outcome is what we now call FLBL. The goal of this club is to equip and inspire students to become future business leaders. The club has been meeting since September. At the meetings they have been working on public speaking skills. The goals for this year are to bring in guest speakers that will continue to sharpen and inspire business skills within our students, as well as begin to establish a network between current students and our CCS alumni. The student leaders, Joseph Flynn & Blake McCoy, have been involved in the process of creating this club experience alongside of Justin Salemy and Mrs. Gibson. They have plans for an off-campus field trip in the second semester. Additionally, plans are underway to seek student internships for summer 2020. The mission for FLBL is as follows, "The Future Lancer Business Leaders is a club designed to provide opportunities for paid internships, connecting students with successful business leaders, and learning the ways of business." Our prayer is that through this club opportunity our young future business leaders will continue to discover and develop their God-given passions and talents for business.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Our High School Student Council is taking it up a notch this year. The newly elected council officers began the year coming together at an off-campus leadership retreat designed just for them. At the retreat, Mr. Campbell, Coach Layman, and Mrs. Gibson challenged them to lead differently this year in order to engage the student community. The topics discussed were personal leadership strengths & weaknesses, how personal values affect leadership, communication skills, value of teamwork, and understanding vision and action planning – transformational leadership.

The Council is made up of executive officers and class officers. The class officers work together collaboratively; there are no distinctions of rank. This is a new leadership strategy we are teaching our student leaders. The first item on the agenda for the Council every year is homecoming week. This year the theme for homecoming was Arabian nights, and the officers all did an amazing job of successfully coordinating another awesome CCS HOCO. What happens beyond homecoming week? Each group of officers has identified a passion project towards which they will begin to work. These passion projects are service oriented and grade level focused. Each group of officers will formulate an action plan and carry it out over the course of the year. Additionally, the Council will also identify focus areas to enhance student life on campus. We are excited to host a special evening in the spring where each group of officers

will present their journey to their parents. This leadership summit will allow the students to reflect on what they've accomplished as they prepare their presentations in which they will communicate their highs and lows from their leadership journey.

PROFESSIONAL PANELS

The Advisory Planning Committee coordinates student activities during the weekly high school advisory period. One of the activities the committee creates for students is the Professional Panel meetings. These meetings occur several times throughout the year. In 2018-2019, three professional panels were organized by the committee. These panels are themed and guided by student feedback. The goal is to provide students access to professionals within the careers they are interested in pursuing. In 18-19, the panel themes were mental health careers, sports related careers, and business and legal careers. One of the goals of the committee, which works alongside of Mrs. Gibson, is to invite professionals from within the CCS community, including alumni, as well as local community leaders. These panels are mutually beneficial for both the professionals and the students as businesses can meet potential talent, and students can develop relationships with potential employers while learning valuable leadership skills. Through professional panels, we are able to partner with our community and allow them to invest and encourage our students as they explore their future career opportunities.

In 19-20, our professional panels will include creative, engineering, medical, and business careers.

GRACE COUNCIL

GRACE Council was founded in 2018-2019, and it launched officially this year. The council was founded by a group of student leaders led by Mikal Willeke, Noah Kent, Ariana Valdez, and Kenia Batista. We now have a core group of about 20 students that meet monthly to continue to develop the vision and scope of GRACE Council. Currently, the vision for is to cultivate a healthy environment among our students that seeks to create bridges that unite us. GRACE aims to celebrate diversity. GRACE is an acronym for gender, race, age & ability, culture, and economic status. We believe the place to begin drawing students together has to be focused on the message of Jesus. GRACE now leads efforts to encourage the student body through student written devotions distributed through the VOICE email. It is also leading the weekly prayer focus on Instagram. GRACE members are creating scripture notes that are placed in each of the girls' bathrooms. A group of students is organizing an event to recruit and inform our international students



How do you define success?

At Cambridge Christian School,
we want our graduates to go to
great schools, have great careers
and be world changers.

More than that, our desire is
for them to know Christ.

The trappings of success are many,
but the assurance of a true faith
is without measure.

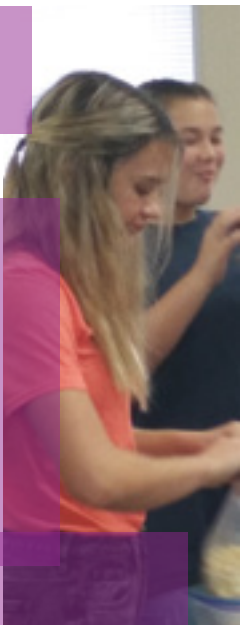


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Purpose Passion Principles





about school organizations and events they can join. At the beginning of the school year, GRACE organized a new Student Mentoring Program to help ease the transition of our new students. GRACE develops projects to help bridge the connections between student groups, while encouraging and proclaiming the message of Christ and God's love. This year GRACE also introduced the first ever school chapter of NOMORE. The NOMORE Club focuses on the core mission of NOMORE which is NOMORE slavery, poverty, orphans, and hopeless. The club is educating and creating service opportunities for the student body to get involved. GRACE Council hopes to create a safe environment for students to come together to discuss inclusion from a Biblical perspective. It is student led, which means it's a work in progress. However, Dr. La Brant and Mrs. Gibson are guiding the effort of these student leaders. GRACE is just getting started and we look forward to seeing how it continues to develop over time.

SLi Campus Connections

OAK GROVE ELEMENTARY



Last year at the Student Leadership Institute retreat, students were asked to think of an opportunity where they could serve others in or out of the Cambridge community. Then junior, Blake McCoy, birthed a campus connection with the purpose of mentoring students at a neighboring elementary school. After a number of meetings with local community leaders, background checks, and trainings, the Oak Grove Elementary Mentorship Campus Connection was born. Partnering with a local elementary school to provide mentorship opportunities to their students has been a passion for Blake since he went on a mission trip to Costa Rica.

Every other week this school year, a group of Cambridge Christian high school seniors give up their afternoons to travel to Oak Grove Elementary School and tutor 1st – 5th grade students in English and Math. The Guidance Counselor at Oak Grove hand selected a group of students that she felt would benefit from one-on-one time with a high school student. Our students spend their time working on homework, preparing for upcoming tests, or simply reinforcing the material learned in class. However, the most important time they have together is often spent playing games, coloring, or chatting about life. This laid-back time when our students simply listen and encourage is often where the true mentoring takes place. It is in these brief moments where we are able to show the students at Oak Grove the love and heart of Jesus.

AMBASSADORS OF CAMBRIDGE



The Ambassadors of Cambridge Christian School are the spiritual leaders of the school. We begin the year attending a retreat where the students are trained in leading middle school small groups. The students are also reminded of the importance of spending time daily with God growing in their own personal relationship with Him. The Ambassadors serve in many ways: leading middle school small groups, hosting Bible studies for freshman and sophomores, helping lead retreats, guiding tours during the school open houses, and serving during the Hall of Fame breakfast. We create a devotion book comprised of devotions written by each Ambassador to use during middle school small groups. Ambassadors are trained to be servant leaders.



Do you ever wonder if money spent on a Christian school education is worth it?

At Cambridge Christian we look at Kingdom Education as an investment, not an expense.

As partners, we work together for your child's academic and spiritual growth. Over the past 55 years, we have heard from countless parents who tell us that the dividends of a Kingdom education come back to them tenfold.



Prepare for college.
Prepare for life.

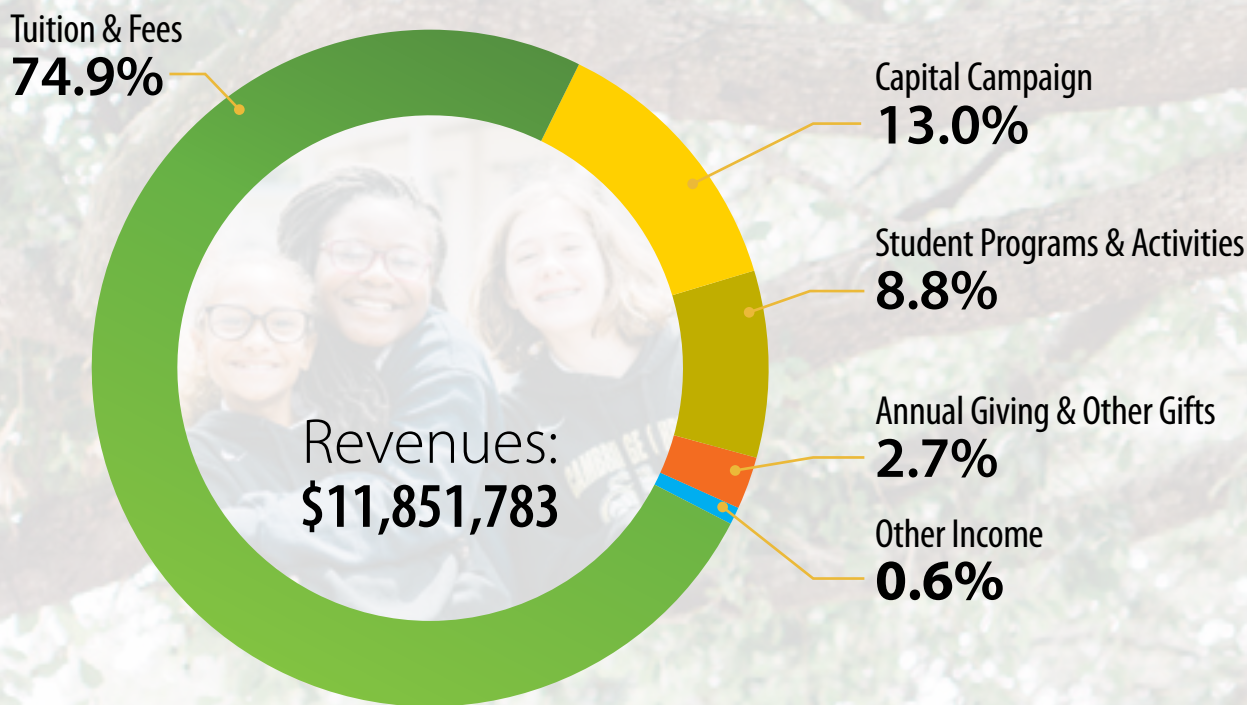
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Annual Report 2018-2019

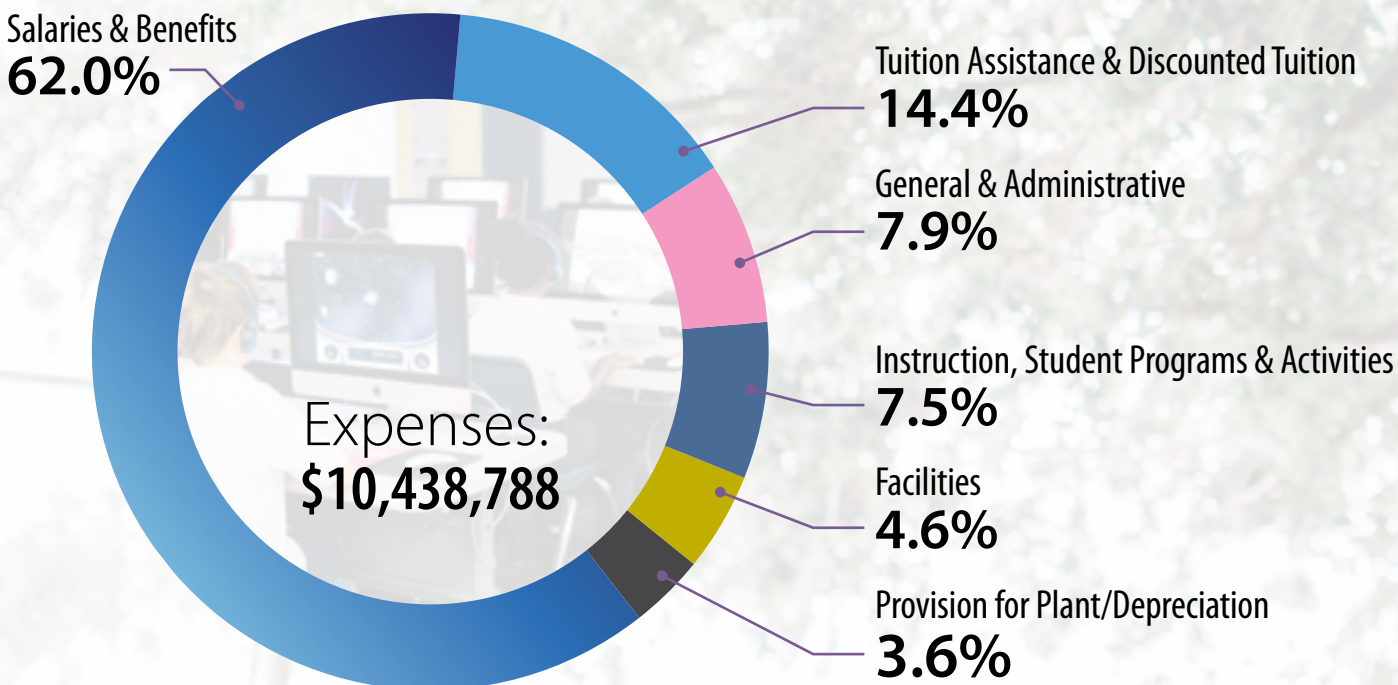
Every school year, Cambridge Christian School has a comprehensive financial audit completed by a third party. Along with a yearly audit, the Business Administrator and the Head of School meet monthly with a Finance Committee made up of Board of Trustee members and parents of Cambridge Christian School to review financial records and financial stability. In addition to the report given yearly at the State of School address on

the financial stability of CCS, we publish this end of the year report. This report is simple, but demonstrates to all stakeholders that CCS administration and Board of Trustees take the core value of financial stability seriously. I am pleased to report that Cambridge Christian School finished the school year meeting all expenses. We are accountable to be good stewards of your investment and handle the business operations of Cambridge wisely and biblically. This report is a small example of that responsibility.

REVENUES

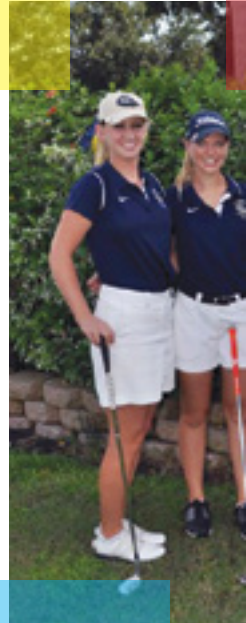


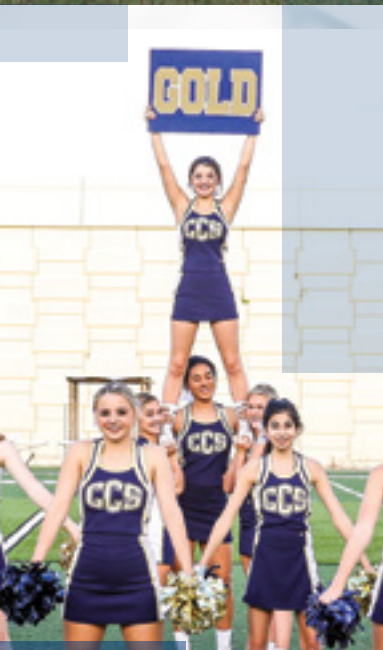
EXPENSES



Unaudited figures as of June 30, 2019.

Developing Leaders at CCS





Leading In Athletics

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW!

The mission of Cambridge Christian School Athletics is to honor God in all things and make “Every Athlete A Disciple”. Sports provide an excellent opportunity for discipleship as students learn many important life lessons on sacrifice, self-discipline, perseverance, community and leadership. We use athletics to prepare young people for life as Christian leaders who choose character before career, wisdom beyond scholarship, service before self, and strive to follow God’s will for their lives. Our coaches are committed to developing champions for Christ and are expected to: foster opportunities for intentional discipleship; build relationships; encourage good citizenship and academics; teach the team concept, coupled with strong competition; present teams prepared to play; do all these things with the primary goal of bringing honor to the Lord. By implementing Biblical principles in our instruction and setting godly examples, our coaches will do their best for the Lord- “And whatever you do, do it heartily unto the Lord, and not to me.” [Col. 3:23].

A Lancer athlete is provided with opportunities to develop skills in communication, team building and leadership. These skills enable them to function effectively as leaders, as well. Playing sports activities such as baseball, softball, football, running, basketball and soccer, help participants learn to treat other competitors with respect, identify strengths and weaknesses, develop winning strategies and manage time effectively. Participating in sports helps people develop confidence and make quick decisions necessary to succeed in leadership roles of all types.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily unto the Lord, and not to me.”

(Col. 3:23).

LEADERSHIP STYLES

Although our Lancer coaching staff exhibit various leadership styles in front of our athletes, the most effective leaders assess situations and decide which leadership style to use. In a crisis, they typically use the autocratic leadership style. Participation on a Lancer athletic team presents many opportunities for our athletes to recognize when to behave decisively. For example, when a soccer player sees a chance to score a goal, he makes the kick. In other cases, a leader needs to consult his subordinates and gather information before deciding. Participating on a team sport often involves developing a strategy to confront the opponent and attack its weaknesses. Leaders of all types use these same strategies in other situations.

TEAM BUILDING

Lancer athletes are provided with many opportunities to develop team-building skills and learn how to inspire others and focus on achieving objectives. The most effective leaders establish a vision, develop strategic objectives, hire talented employees, obtain funding to operate their business and motivate personnel. Lancer athletes learn to use their sports experience to coordinate team building which is important as they advance in the career of their choice. They learn how to collaborate with their teammates so that one day they can foster collaboration in the workplace. A background that includes playing team sports prepares a person to function effectively in personal and professional situations that require coordinating other people’s actions.

DECISION MAKING

A lancer athlete learns to make decisions by observing and interpreting information quickly. Lancer athletics provide many opportunities for athletes to exhibit decisive behavior. For example, a football quarterback typically has only a few seconds to decide where to throw a pass. Playing sports helps a person develop the skills and behavior necessary to succeed in a dynamic, global workplace. Additionally, by participating on a team, a player learns to develop strategies and work with his teammates to enable their victory. Playing sports prepares a leader to influence others, set realistic goals and solve problems efficiently to win a competitive advantage.

COMMUNICATION

Leaders require excellent communication skills. Playing sports helps people develop the ability to work together effectively using techniques that apply in business situations, too. For example, a baseball pitcher and catcher communicate using a series of signals. Finding a way to communicate efficiently in any situation helps a leader succeed in business, too. People who play sports learn how to present their winning ideas to others. Leaders improve their leadership capacity by listening to others and speaking and writing clearly and convincingly.

Lancer Athletics is developing leaders of tomorrow through the dedication of godly coaches who are instilling the necessary leadership qualities for success. The Bible says in I Timothy 4:2- "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Making "Every Athlete A Disciple" is the foundation that makes this happen.

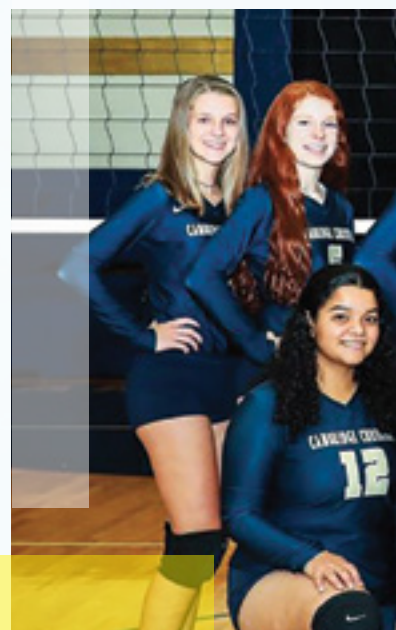
"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

(I Timothy 4:2).



**Purpose, Passion, Principles
Developing Leaders at CCS**

Credits/resources: Money-Zine.com: Leadership in Sports,
Tara Duggan and Mark Butler, Athletic Director, Cambridge Christian School





Congratulations! Boys bowling enjoyed another strong season, going 11-7 during the season, finishing third in the district tournament. Led by new coach Marcos Lopez, the team received strong seasons from upperclassmen Ben Sanney and Micah Rideout. The younger bowlers, Aaron Bustamante, Jason Leto, Andy Richardson, Gio Scanio, Brent Ferris, Brandon Byers, and Luke Lekarczyk also chipped in and contributed to the team's success. Girls bowling also enjoyed another excellent season, going 10-1 during the season, and finished as the District Runner-Up, their 4th consecutive season in the district championship. Seniors Rebekah Bustamante, Lauren Hahn, Alyssa Hickinbotham, and Lindsey Carson led the team with solid scoring. The underclassmen, Irena Mesa, Lily Zhu and Lexi Xu also contributed to the strong season. The girls team competed well in the state tournament finishing in a respectable 20th place. Ben Sanney also represented CCS well as an individual at the state tournament.



Congratulations to the Lancer Girls Varsity Volleyball Team on an epic 5 set win over Foundation Christian in the District Semifinals 25-18, 18-25, 25-17, 20-25, 15-9. They went on to the District Championships and established themselves as real contenders and Lancerville is celebrating an incredible season.



Congratulations to the Cambridge Christian School Lancer Cross Country Teams for their performance at the Regional Championships! The boys team placed second in the region with Reed Legg being the Regional Individual Champion! The girls team is the Regional Champions! Elli Black is the Individual Champion and Lydia Friedman came in second! Both the boys and girls teams finished in 3rd place at the FHSAA State finals! It's been an amazing season for these hard working teams.





Update

Alumni



Steven Eicholtz ('09) graduated from Georgia State University in May 2019 as a Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellow with a Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Secondary Mathematics. The Woodrow Wilson Teaching Fellowship is a program designed to prepare individuals with a background in STEM fields to teach at high-need secondary schools. Steven previously worked in a research lab utilizing his background in Mechanical Engineering. Steven and his wife Bethany remain in Atlanta, GA where Steven is teaching engineering at Maynard Jackson High School.



The Cambridge Christian School athletic department celebrated alum and Class of 2019 Hall of Fame inductees, Cliff Walker (Class of 1993), Stephanie Grace Russell (Class of 2006), and Matthew Fishman (Class of 2010). We had a wonderful and emotional morning at the induction ceremony and a beautiful evening to recognize them on the field before the homecoming game. Congratulations to all!



Developing Leaders at CCS



Lancer Alumni Association Leadership

Meet our Officers

Alumni Association President Justin Salemy '05 is a Lancer for Life, attending CCS (previously called Seminole Presbyterian) since elementary school. Here he forged strong friendships that have stood the test of time, still best friends with fellow classmate Kyle Kefauver '05. Justin had a passion for sports and found his calling for basketball under the tutelage of Coach Baker Mabry, who also graduated from Cambridge. Justin stayed local and graduated from the University of Tampa with a degree in finance. He followed his father's footsteps into the financial services industry as an Associate Wealth Management Advisor with Northwestern Mutual here in Tampa. He continues to follow his passion for basketball as the Head Middle School Basketball Coach at Carrollwood Day School. For the past 18 years, Justin has been playing basketball every Saturday morning here at Cambridge Christian School, as part of the "Weekend Warriors" group. This group is a supporter of our basketball programs by helping us purchase shoes, gear, and supplies every year.



As President, Justin hopes to create awareness for what Cambridge Christian is doing, host quarterly alumni events, establish a pro-business and networking atmosphere in Upper School, and inspire alumni to get involved and give back. Justin became involved with the Lancer Alumni Association because of the special memories of his time at Cambridge. "All the relationships with teachers, students, coaches, and faculty had a major impact on my life. I believe a lot of graduates feel the same way I do and want to be involved with Cambridge."



Vice President Eryn [Van Valkenburg] Zeller '06 is delighted to be back home in Tampa, surrounded by the Lancer community. Upon graduating from Cambridge Christian, Eryn continued her studies at the University of Tampa, where she earned a B.A. in Communications with a minor in Spanish. After finishing studies at UT in 2010, Eryn found a job in the pharmaceutical industry in Dallas, Texas where she and her husband Philip lived until late 2018. In addition to her work in the pharmaceutical industry, Eryn designs flower arrangements for events around the Tampa Bay area under her moniker Eryn Zeller Floral Designs (IG: @eryn_zeller_floral_designs). On the weekends you may find Eryn at Tampa Yacht Club with her horse, Cruiser, spending time with her family, or fishing in the back of her South Tampa home with her husband, Phil, and golden retriever, Bailey. Eryn decided to get involved with the Cambridge Christian Alumni Board when she returned to Tampa last year, seeing this as an opportunity to give back to the school and reconnect with the Lancer community. Her main goal is to help CCS create a reliable group of alumni who support the school. Other objectives are to support Lancer alumni's career pursuits and coordinate quarterly alumni events.



I'm a Lancer for Life



Follow the Lancer Alumni page on Facebook @ [lanceralumni](#) or email Justin at justinsalemy@gmail.com.



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