

Connections

Linking hearts through the Oneness of Christ at Cambridge Christian School - Summer 2016

Greater *> things*

Highlights
of our
departments and
alumni updates.

Introducing
the theme
for the CCS
2016-2017
school year
"Greater things."





Tim Euler, M.Ed.
Head of School
Cambridge
Christian School

Greater>things

Cambridge Families, Friends, and Alumni:

Welcome to the 2016 – 2017 school year. As my family enters year four at Cambridge Christian School, I cannot help but pause and thank God for all that He has accomplished in our great school. The accomplishments that have been made have more to do with the hearts of our families, friends, and alumni than anything else. It is because of faithful sacrifice that God has poured out a blessing on CCS! Here are just a few of those reminders:

- A 9% increase in student enrollment
- Above and Beyond Giving of over 1.2 million dollars
- Increased partnerships among local churches
- Creation and Adaption of the CCS2020 plan
- Creation of Lower School Think Tank
- Creation of a school-wide NILD program
- Digital Implementation of instruction on campus
- 9th – 12th grade fully digital in 2016 – 2017 school year
- 7th – 8th grade fully digital in 2017 – 2018 school year
- 6th grade fully digital in 2018 – 2019 school year
- Partnership with New Missions and training of teachers in Haiti
- New CCS website
- New CCS Marketing Strategy
- Implementation of 360-degree evaluations for all employees (last portion of peer evaluations implemented in 2016-2017)
- Microsoft Surface 3 devices with interactive pens given to faculty
- Apple iPad Mini tablets given to faculty
- Apple TV wireless adapters for iPads to connect to TV's
- Microsoft wireless adapters for Surface to connect to TV's
- 60" televisions for classroom presentations
- 4 – iPad Minis for grades K-3
- Student Response System for all K-3 classes and LS Spanish Class Fiber backbone added between buildings
- Complete overhaul of the school's campus-wide Wi-Fi system
- Microsoft Office 365 accounts for all faculty, staff and grades 7-12 including licensing for the most current versions of Microsoft Office products: Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, PowerPoint, SharePoint, OneNote, Sway, OneDrive for Business and more

While the above list of accomplishments is not exhaustive, the greatest item that was accomplished during the 2015 – 2016 school year was the purchase of our Habana Campus. We now hold the future of Cambridge Christian School in our hands. We are no longer pondering the question, "Where are we going to be in 5 years?" We know God has provided a campus that, while needing upgrades, is effective and efficient for our current needs. But what is next?

Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think – according to the power that works in you...

Ephesians 3:20

Greater>things

Tim Euler
Head of School
Cambridge Christian School

A new school year brings new challenges and new initiatives that must be tackled. For over 50 years, Cambridge Christian School has started each school year with excitement and a renewed vigor to accomplish great things. Did you know that in the 1980's more than 800 students attended school on this campus? While today we could not fit that many students (mainly because of parking restrictions), our goal is to see our campus grow to over 700 students in the next 3 years. We make a commitment to each of you that even with growth, CCS will not lose its family-driven relationships. We will continue to focus on what has made us great in Tampa - relationships. You can see our plans to accomplish this more closely by reviewing the CCS2020 plan on our website: CCSLancers.com/about/ccs2020/.

While continuing to focus on relationships and our families, we firmly believe God is launching CCS into a fresh reliance on Him. As was communicated at the State of the School Address in January, we have contracted with an architecture firm, HolmesHepner, and have begun an analysis on upgraded facilities and a potential redesign of our campus layout. We believe God has GREATER THINGS planned for CCS. As He has grown CCS and faithfully provided over the past 51 school years, we believe God is getting ready to pour out a blessing on our school that cannot be matched. Could this be the year we finalize plans to accomplish all that He has planned for us? What would the educational experience be like if we had...

- A New High School building focused on STEM-based learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).
- A New or Upgraded Lower School facility that fully meets the needs of current learning and instruction, exposing students to a world of critical thinking and hands-on learning.
- A New Performing Arts Center that matches the excellence already existing in our Fine Arts.
- An enhanced car line, that allows simpler access to campus for both Lower and Upper School families.
- A campus that maintains our current feel but allows us to play sports like baseball, softball, and maybe even Track and Football on our campus.
- A leadership center that is fully equipped to train the future generations.

How might God be blessing our campus in the next 5 to 10 years? We believe that while we are committed to providing an excellent educational experience during the 2016 – 2017 school year that is centered on Biblical Truth, this school year will be the year God asks Cambridge Christian School to plan for GREATER THINGS! Our prayer this school year is that God opens doors and provides opportunities for each student, for each family, for all CCS friends, and for each of our over 800 Alumni to experience GREATER THINGS in each of their lives and families. This is going to be an exciting year. *Welcome to the 2016 – 2017 school year!*

Golden Lancer Awards

By: Mr. Brad Grabill
Bible Department Head

A special recognition by the Upper School Bible Department is given every year at graduation. It is known as the GOLDEN LANCER AWARD. Over the years, this award has generally gone unpublicized in our magazine. However, we felt it important to do so now, as the ideals of the GOLDEN LANCER AWARD and the desires of the Cambridge Christian Bible Department for the spiritual formation of our students, are virtually one-and-the same.

The two graduates receiving the Golden Lancer Award (one young man and one young lady) are nominated by the upper school faculty, reviewed by the upper school principal and ratified by the Bible Department. The students who are awarded the Golden Lancer have demonstrated a level of Christian character and outstanding discipleship that is CLEARLY evident on our school's campus.

Some of the qualifications for a student to be considered for the GOLDEN LANCER include:

- Maintaining enrollment in CCS for at least 3 full semesters
- Showing evidence of regular, meaningful involvement within their local church (attendance, ministry, etc.)

- Demonstrating a level of spiritual maturation that is marked by purpose and excellence.

It would be reasonable to see this revealed in ways like:

- growing knowledge of and love for God's Word
- godly insight and ability to make spiritual applications to life situations
- exemplary attitude
- obvious love for others and a tender-heartedness toward their needs
- grace in dealing with pressures and changes, both expected and unpredicted
- modesty in appearance and behavior
- and generally... a sacrificial spirit and lifestyle

We realize that the young people receiving this recognition are not perfect. And we also know that rewards for living a truly Christ-like life are ULTIMATELY stored in heaven and not laid up on earth. But, it is our desire to celebrate how God is impacting His world through the lives of some young people who are very obviously committed to Him.

Each recipient of the Golden Lancer Award is gifted by Cambridge Christian School with a \$1000 scholarship to the college of their choice.

(continued)



Connections

Summer 2016 Issue — A publication of
Cambridge Christian School

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 web site to discover more.



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The CAMBRIDGE CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL 2016
GOLDEN LANCERS ARE:



Hannah
Bullian



Nathanael
Bustamante

The Golden Lancer Award was first given in 1988. Listed below are all our alumni Golden Lancers. Their names are proudly displayed on a plaque in the Upper School Office.

1988-Harrison Hickinbotham	2004-Elyse Sadtler and Joshua Eicholtz
1989-Andrea Small	
1992-Melinda Mallory and Keith Kneeshaw	2005-Angela Pacheco and Stephen Parsley
1993-Jennifer Sandoval and Antoine Walker	2006-Cassie Hall and Jonathan Spallino
1994-Dana George and Carol Davis	2007-Amy Reinke and Garrett Cox
1995-Laura Dearolf and Christopher Sandoval	2008-Hannah Widell and Mark Ammerman
1996-Carrie Smith and John & James Hawes	2009-Emily Greene and Jack Boardman
1997-Charlene Davis	2010-Allie Scheimann and Michael Quintana
1998-Rebecca Reichwald and David Nelson	2011-Amber Rubright and Spencer Smith
1999-Meghan Greene and Bryan Dearolf	2012-Sarah Longhta and Joshua Chitwood
2000-Laura Thomason and Justin Bennett	2013-Katia Cardona and Easton White
2001-Laura Ammerman and Joseph Bryan	2014-Spenser Tonarelli and Tyler Hillier
2002-Megan Reed and Tony Valdes	2015-Madison Fabian and Josiah Kent
2003-Meagan Van Ost and Jared Devirgilis	

Excellence in Academics



Lower School Awards

CREATIVE WRITING FESTIVAL AWARDS

The following Cambridge Christian Lower School students won awards at the 2015-2016 ACSI Creative Writing Festival.

Superior Rating:

Fifth Grade- Sophie Ater/ Fourth Grade- Abby Green

Excellent Rating:

Fifth Grade- Chloe Stenberg, Lexie Olivas/ Fourth Grade- Olivia Byrne, Corey Griffore, Abigail Hickinbotham, Hailee Sterling and Genesis Corbin

Good Rating:

Fifth Grade- Julia Byrne/ Fourth Grade- Hope Riddle

Thank you Ms. Marie Miller, fifth grade Language Arts teacher, for coordinating this competition!



Spelling Bee Awards

Congratulations to Spelling Club Coach and first grade teacher, Ms. Kathy Larson and to all the students who placed in this year's ACSI SPELLING BEE!

Lawson Green- 1st grade- 3rd place

Owen Staples- 2nd grade- 2nd place

Jarah Williams- 6th grade- 2nd place

Tony Gaskins- 3rd grade- 1st place

This is Tony Gaskin's THIRD year in a row for coming in first place, great job Tony!!!

Mark Desmarais Memorial
Scholarship Award

Every year, Lower School recognizes a sixth grader for the *Mark Desmarais Memorial Award*. This award is given in honor of former Lower School student Mark Desmarais, who left to be with the Lord at age nine in 2007 after a long battle with cancer. Students are nominated for having a Christ-like attitude, respectful towards his/her teachers and peers, showing kindness and helpfulness, always striving to do their best work, showing school spirit and leadership skills.

The nominees for 2015-2016 were Charbel Awad, Brandon Byers, Morgan Brody, Ella Moss, Andrew Richardson and Joseph Ginel. The winner of the \$1,000 tuition scholarship went to Andrew Richardson.

Congratulations to
all the nominees!

Upper School Awards

THE ANNE FRANK HUMANITARIAN AWARD, sponsored by the Florida Holocaust Museum, was awarded to Emily Johnson for her outstanding dedication to serving others.

CCS Community Service Awards recognize the student in each high school grade who has earned the most number of community service hours. These awards went to:

- 9th grade Melissa Medina
- 10th grade Nathan LeFew
- 11th grade Emily Johnson
- 12th grade Brandon White

THE ATHENA SOCIETY recognized Gabby Badmus as a Young Woman of Promise for her achievements and high standards.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE SELECTIONS FOR 2015-16 are: Noah Day and Sebastian Miranda

CAMBRIDGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL MATH COMPETITION TEAM WINNERS: Caroline Olvey, Lindsay Price, Gabby Badmus and Troy Ater

Junior Honors

Cambridge Christian School partners with several universities to honor exceptional junior students:

- Wofford College Award – Claudia Balch, Tiana Minks
- Furman University Scholars Award – Alyssa Dominguez
- Presbyterian College Award – Gabby Badmus, Syera Schaffer
- Gardner Webb University Junior Scholars – Jacob Enns, Adriana Lopez, Trent Smith
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Award – Jing Cheng

Senior Honors

- Seniors Taylor Sas and Henry Burrows were recognized for their contributions to the Drama program at CCS.
- Univision Tampa Bay recognized three seniors of Hispanic heritage through their *Hispanic Academic All Stars Recognition Program*: Nathanael Bustamante, Ariana Cardona and Sophie Perez
- The English department honored Zach Newman for outstanding commitment to writing.
- A new award was presented to Nathanael Bustamante: the *Cambridge Christian Spirit Award* in honor of the leadership and spirit of Mrs. Coney.

Senior Departmental Awards of Excellence

Senior Class Achievements

- 54 graduates were accepted to 59 different colleges and universities in 18 states and the District of Columbia and received more than 3.8 million dollars in scholarship offers.
- Athletics scholarships signed for Baseball, Bowling, Football, Softball and Volleyball
- Two ROTC scholarships

- Choral Music- Ariana Cardona
- Art- Clare Weigel
- World Languages- Taylor Sas
- Mathematics- Shawn Ren
- Science- Kara Vaaler
- History- Tim Yee
- English- Henry Burrows

Class Academic Honors

- Valedictorian- Kara Vaaler
- Salutatorian- Veronica Hubbard

BY THE NUMBERS

- * Over 80% of students 6-12th grade participated in sport
- * Varsity teams won 64% of their games
- * 6 Bay Conference Champions
- * 3 Player of the Year Recognitions
- * 50 All Bay Conference Athletes

Upper School Awards

Lancers Class of 2016 student athletes will be continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level:

- Josh Mendoza, Baseball and Football, Catawba College ❶
- Alea White, Softball, University of Central Florida ❷
- Zach Bowles, Bowling, Martin Methodist ❸
- Grace Nelson, Volleyball, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Allison Armstrong, Golf, Vanderbilt University

The NFHS, with confirmation from the FHSAA, has listed Alea White in the National Record Book for her 23 strikeout performance in a 7 inning game from 2/12/15 vs. Bayshore Christian ❹

Grace Seymour, track and field, was named District Champion in Long Jump.

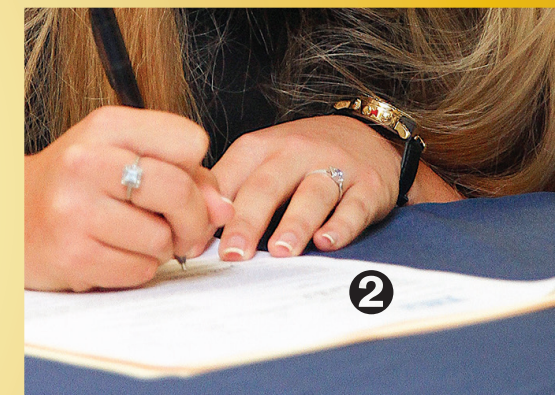
Alea White was named the Florida Athletic Coaches Association 2016 District 15 (Hillsborough County) 3A Softball Player of the Year ❺

ALUMNI ATHLETE UPDATE

Nick Eicholtz, Baseball (Pitcher), Class of 2013, was recently selected in the 13th round (383rd pick) by the Miami Marlins. This is after playing three seasons for the University of Alabama.

Coaches of the Year

- Bob Dare was the 2A Dairy Farmer's Football Coach of the Year. ❻
- Kevin Hickinbotham The Florida Athletic Coaches Association 2016 District 15 (Hillsborough County) 3A Softball Coach of the Year. ❼





CCS BAND HIGHLIGHTS

This year the CCS Band has been filled with individual and group skill development, competitions, performances, and instrument additions. Here are the highlights from the 2015-2016 year.

The following students participated in summer music programs:

- Will Singleton – University of Tampa Band Camp
- Sammy Trentacoste – University of Tampa Band Camp
- Jaden Harris – University of South Florida Middle School Summer Band Camp
- Daniel Harris – University of South Florida Middle School Summer Band Camp

The following students participated in the FBA District Solo and Ensemble MPA:

- Sammy Trentacoste – Superior; Flute Solo Grade 5
- Adam Weizycki – Superior; Trumpet Solo Grade 3
- Sehee Yu and Sammy Trentacoste – Superior; Flute Duet Grade 4
- Hannah Brody – Excellent; Clarinet Solo Grade 5
- Jaden Harris – Superior; Trumpet Solo Grade 4
- Daniel Harris – Superior; Alto Saxophone Solo Grade 4
- Luke Weizycki – Superior; Clarinet Solo Grade 3
- Edward Morrison – Excellent; Baritone Solo Grade 2

Sammy Trentacoste participated in the FBA State Solo and Ensemble MPA. She earned a Superior ranking on her grade 5 flute solo.

- The bands performed numerous times throughout the year. The Pep Band cheered on the football team at home games throughout the regular season and all the way through the post season to the Orlando Citrus Bowl Stadium for the State Championship. The concert bands performed in the CCS Christmas Concert, CCS Spring Concert, Grandparents Day, and the CCS Talent Showcase.

- The band department added a set of Musser Tube Chimes and set of 4 Ludwig Timpani drums.



CCS CHOIR HIGHLIGHTS

- October - Rockin' Talent Show
- October - Hosted Austrian students, made friends for life
- December - Stunning Christmas concert
- January - Once in a lifetime performance of Dan Forrest's Requiem for the Living at Carnegie Hall in New York City
- February - Ensemble performed at First Baptist Church for Valentine banquet
- March - Outstanding performance at District MPA
- March - Life-changing trip to Panama where over 200 Panamanian students professed faith in Jesus. They are being disciples by Word of Life Panama



- April - Brilliant performance of 42nd Street
- May - Joyful celebration concert at Disneyworld
- May - Gorgeous Ensemble performances at Baccalaureate and CCS Graduation

CCS DRAMA HIGHLIGHTS



- Mission trip to NYC in August with top drama students, performing evangelical dramas in the city parks; focused on the Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu neighborhoods of Jackson Hts.
- The Journey – the first ever “all school” Fall Drama; an allegory of our search for a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- “The Princess Bride” reenactments

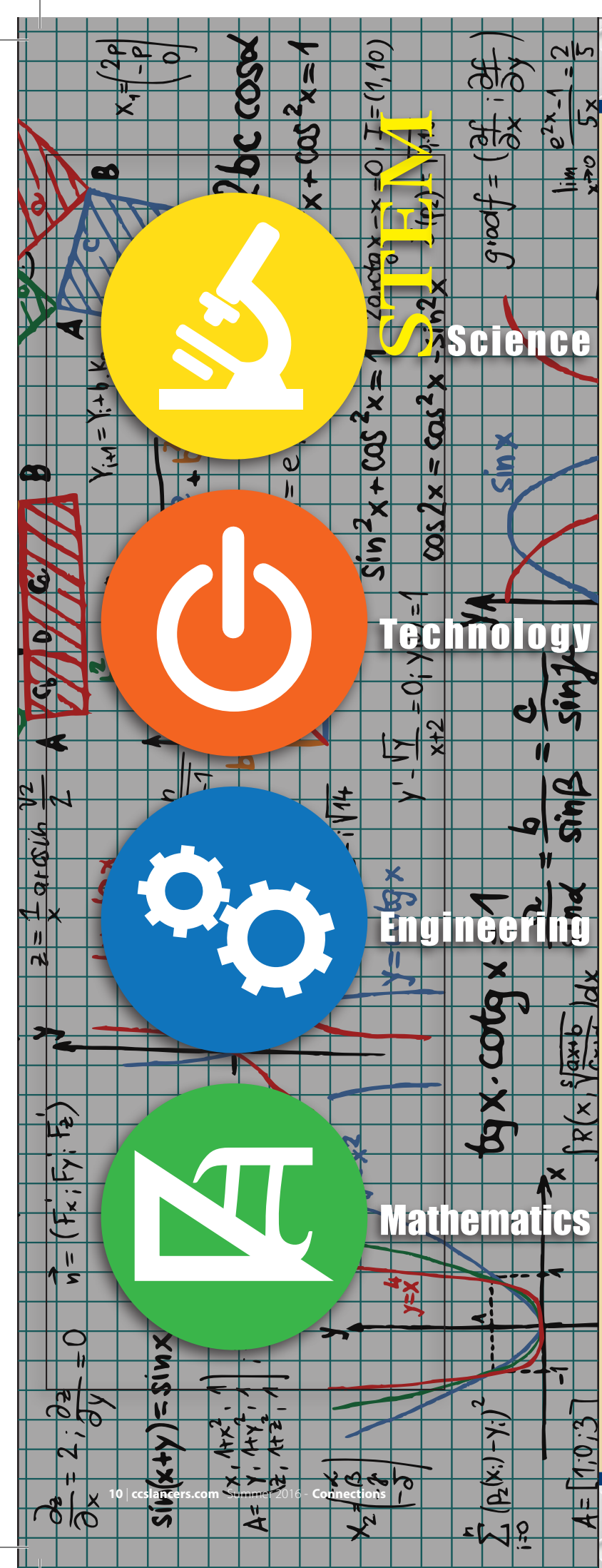
- Monologue performances
- Dramatic Readings
- 42nd Street – the amazing Spring Musical.
- Henry Burrows and Taylor Sas, our two seniors recognized for excellence.



★ Overall an awesome year thanks to our incredible students and the incomparable Fine Arts team!

The Lancer Band performed on the Waterfront Stage in Disney Springs through Disney Performing Arts.





STEM the Tide!

By Shawn Minks, Assistant Head of School

At Cambridge Christian School, our mission statement proclaims “excellence at every level of academic involvement.” In the year 2016 and beyond, given the rate of innovation and its implications on the job market, an excellent K-12 education must include extensive preparation in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math). In all disciplines, teachers can no longer be solely deliverers of content. Content is available at the tap of a finger. Rather, the role of the teacher has shifted to that of facilitator and guide in a student-centered environment where inquiry and collaboration are valued and promoted.

This will prepare our students for the world that awaits them – one that requires thinking and problem solving.

A study in 2013 (9) showed that:

- Unemployed people outnumbered job postings by 3.6 to 1.
- STEM job postings outnumbered unemployed people by 1.9 to 1.

Further, Dr. Ingram from Ball Ground STEM Academy in Ball Ground, GA (12) said:

- STEM jobs will grow 17% in the next 10 years.
- Non-STEM jobs will grow only 9.8%.

Where do we begin? Don’t we already offer AP classes in math and science, as well as technology classes and Robotics options during and after school? Yes, but we are only scratching the surface. It is time to develop and implement a comprehensive K-12 STEM strategy.

According to Buckner and Boyd (9), high quality STEM instruction:

- Challenges students to think critically, solve problems, and hone 21st century skills
- Improves students’ ability to gather, synthesize, and analyze data
- Fosters student curiosity, creativity, and ingenuity in addressing real-world problems
- Engages students in STEM to increase the pipeline of STEM professionals

To what extent can our current program be described in these terms? Buckner and Boyd have published ten key questions to assess 21st century literacy. These questions provide one filter through which we are assessing our current program to determine the scope and formalization of our STEM program moving forward. The questions follow (9):

10 Key Questions to Assess 21st Century Literacy

1. Do my learners demonstrate intellectual curiosity?
2. Do my learners act on creative and new ideas to make a tangible and useful contribution to self or culture?
3. Are my learners able to make complex choices or decisions?
4. Are my learners able to frame, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information to solve problems and answer questions?
5. When given the opportunity, do my learners articulate their thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively through speaking and writing?
6. Are my learners able to analyze, access, manage, integrate, evaluate and create information in a variety of forms and media?
7. Are my learners able to monitor their own understanding and learning needs to accomplish goals that have been set?
8. Are my learners able to adapt to varied roles and responsibilities while bridging cultural differences and using differing perspectives to increase motivation and the quality of work?
9. Are my learners able to set and meet high standards and goals for delivering quality work on time?
10. Are my learners able to leverage the strengths of others to accomplish a common goal?

Notice that none of these questions read anything like, “Are my learners able to program a drone?” Devices are tools; the focus of STEM is truly on problem solving. In fact, whenever you have to solve a problem you are using STEM. STEM content and concepts are most often successfully taught after students pass through a series of investigative steps: ask, imagine, plan, create, and experiment (9).

Finally, I want to provide three assurances for what STEM will not be at CCS. It will not be...

1) a mere succumbing to a government school trend. STEM, and then STEAM, and now STREAM have been all the rage at public schools for a number of years. We will pursue STEM for the reasons elaborated upon above.

2) the sole academic focus. In fact, certain portions of our STEM program will be available and appeal only to a niche group of students at CCS – those who determine early on that their future interests and/or careers will be STEM-related. We will not lose sight of the importance of writing, language and other disciplines.

3) taught in seclusion from biblical truth. All truth is God’s truth. Our commitment to teach all subjects from a biblical worldview perspective is only emboldened given the wayward way of the world in recent years. Truth will not be sacrificed or compromised at CCS; it will be acknowledged and taught.

Please contact me if you have any questions about STEM at CCS or if you feel led to be involved. Involvement could include everything from funding to volunteering to offering expertise. Soon, I will be bringing together a group of local professionals in STEM fields to present our vision. If this is of interest to you, let me know. Details of the program will be released in the near future.



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Library or Media Center? What's the difference?



For 52 years, Cambridge Christian School has offered a college-preparatory education at the preschool, lower and upper school levels. In continual pursuit of this goal, during the summer CCS has transformed the school's lower and upper school libraries into fully

functional, 21st century media centers. You may be asking yourself, "What is the difference between a library and a media center? Isn't that just a name change? The answer to these questions rely on how you define each type of facility.

A traditional library can be defined as a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recordings for people to read, borrow, or reference. In essence, the function of a library is to be an all-inclusive reservoir of academic knowledge and information. It contains a large collection of resources to provide information on a wide variety of subject matter and includes resources for doing research, as well as providing casual reading. With the inclusion of computers into libraries, additional resources, beyond the scope of the facility, can now be accessed with only a few keystrokes. Even with the addition of computers, the primary goal of a library is to be a provider of physical collections of resources for its patrons. A library, as a self-contained unit, should be able to provide its patron with the majority of the resources that they need to check-out from its doors.

A media center, on the other hand, can be defined as a building or room that contains and encourages the use of audiovisual media, computer resources and services, as well as books, periodicals, and other forms of print material. While a media center shares many of the same materials and resources as a traditional library, the main difference is found in its purpose and function. Media centers are not designed to function as a reservoir of knowledge and information, instead they are designed to

function as a pointer to academically sound and well vetted information, wherever it may be found.

Media centers do not contain large collections of resources, instead it focuses on providing mostly casual reading materials and it promotes the use of electronic databases and online materials to encourage scholarly academic research.

Instead of pointing its patrons toward resources found in its facility the majority of the time, a media center points its patrons towards the most up-to-date information that is located outside of its doors. A media center is a facilitator of academic knowledge and information rather than being a reservoir for such resources.

A key component to the changes taking place in the CCS Media Centers is the repurposing of each space to meet the needs of the students that will be served. In the Lower School Media Center, students will have a colorful and inviting reading and learning environment. Whether sitting on a comfortable bungee chair, relaxing on a chair, sitting on a massive reading rug, or just sitting at a reading table, the lower school students will have plenty of options for reading a good book.

When it comes time to doing research for a school project, students will have access to the World Book Online Database to help them perform educationally-based, kid friendly, research. The WBOD contains six educational products geared for elementary age students: World Book Student, World Book Kids, Early World of Learning, World Book Timelines, World Book Mobile, and a Spanish database product called, "Enciclopedia Estudiantil Hallazgos." Students will be able to use the computer section of the media center to do research on their own before school or after school and teachers will even be able to schedule time during the school day for their class to use the computer section of the media center to do research using the WBOD.

The repurposing of the upper school media center is all about student collaboration. Students can work in small groups at two Collaboration Stations in the media center. The Collaboration Stations will allow students to connect their device to a 60" television while collaborating with other students on school projects. Upper school students can use the large displays to work on a group presentation, collaborate on a group research project, engaging in a group study session, or for a one-on-one tutoring session.

A casual seating section offers students the opportunity to gather a small group together to quietly develop plans for a school project or individually sit in a relaxed setting and

work on their school or newspaper. In addition to the casual seating, students still have plenty of tables to spread out their books or use their devices.

When it comes to scholarly research in the upper school, students will have access to "A Rich Collection of Full-Text Resources for Secondary Schools," called the Ultra Online Package from EBSCO. The Ultra Online Package contains six databases of superior

educational materials for students to do research. Students can find everything from educational literature, current events, social, political and economic issues, medical information, newspapers, and magazines. A complete description of each database can be found on EBSCO's website: <https://www.ebscohost.com/us-high-schools/ultra-online-package>.

Although the upper school students are welcome to access the online database while sitting in the upper school media center, students will be able to access the database at any time and from anywhere by using their personal device. More information will be provided to the upper school students on how to login and perform searches at the beginning of the school year.

As Cambridge continues to pursue excellence in academics, the CCS Lower and Upper School Media Centers will go a long way in providing an academic environment for students to learn and collaborate together. The media centers will offer our students the best and most up-to-date educational and scholarly online research databases to prepare them for their future. So what is the difference in a name? In the case of the CCS Media Centers...everything!

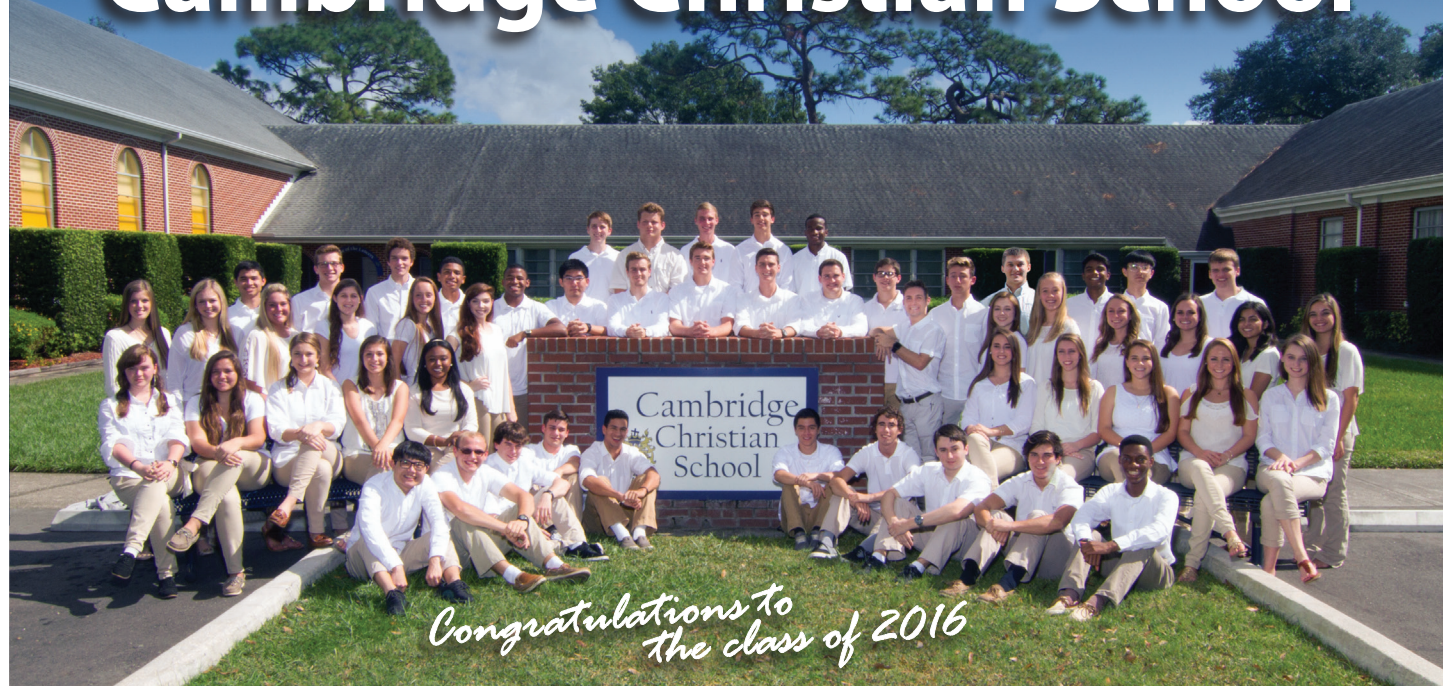
Welcome to the new CCS Media Centers!

Prepare
for
College.



Prepare
for
Life.

Cambridge Christian School



Home of the
Lancers
Visit us at
CCSLancers.com



Alumni Feature

Never Take Your Faith for Granted

By Shannon Herrera



Gabriel (Gabe) Encarnacion's first statement to me was, "I never thought I was going to graduate."

This wasn't because his grades were poor. He actually worked very hard at school in the Dominican Republic to please his teachers. Before coming to Cambridge for his senior year of high school, Gabe had been sleeping on the floor of his local church for three years. Not because he was homeless or abandoned. He had given his life fully to Christ at the age of 14. His family was not Christian and did not understand how a young man who had been break dancing at parties for money and spending it on alcohol and cigarettes could change so dramatically and now enjoy spending hours in prayer. His mother thought something was wrong with Gabe and almost sent him to an institution. His faith was causing family strife so he respectfully asked permission to sleep at the church so his late night prayer sessions would not bother anyone.

Gabe had heard about Jesus Christ at a young age, but as the youngest of several brothers in a family that were not believers, he was not heading in a good direction. Gabe looked up to his older brother, Billy, who brought him along to do break dance shows. Billy was in a horrible motorcycle crash 5 years ago and was in critical condition. Gabe's family was at the hospital not knowing if his brother would survive. That night, Gabe was trying to do his homework but was overcome at possibly losing his brother. Gabe

thought, "What is life about?" The drinking and smoking was not a life for him or his brother. Ending up in jail seemed the only end game. Gabe said, "I had a pen and was going to kill myself." He could do it. His next thought was, "If there is a God in Heaven, save my brother and I will follow you forever." Being overcome, he ran outside crying and a woman that taught a local Bible Study stopped and listened to him. She asked him, "Have you ever thought about Christ?" Gabe accepted Christ right then and he says his heart changed immediately and he knew that his brother would not die. After 9 days in critical care, his brother turned the corner, leaving him to recover with just a broken leg.

Gabe does not go very far without the Bible he received when he gave his life to Christ at 14. From the moment he was saved, Gabe told God, "I will preach about You and live for You always." Gabe read his Bible whenever he could, basking in this new love of a heavenly Father. "My family never said, 'I love you,' he recalled. He read about love, but was not seeing it lived out in his family. After a while, depression set in. Gabe was concerned for his family not knowing Christ. He said he suffered every night and it wasn't healthy. He prayed that someone in his family would come to know Christ so he wouldn't be alone. His cousin became saved shortly afterwards and starting sleeping at the church with him. His older brother Daury became

saved and started sleeping at the church as well. Gabe rejoiced, "I am not crazy, I am living truth, I know God is in control." Many nights at the church were spent sharing the Bible with his cousin and brother.

After a year of sleeping at the church, Gabe became an assistant to the church pastor and at one point was asked to preach at an activity outside the church. He just spoke the words that were on his heart. His mother was there that day and became saved. Shortly after, another cousin and his grandmother were saved. Gabe was seeing the fruit of his fervent prayers!

God put on Gabe's heart that now that others in his family were Christian, He would be taking him somewhere else. This was confirmed by a stranger in town that stopped him and told him that he would be leaving them. His pastor also confirmed that God shared a similar message about Gabe with him. Gabe's family was not wealthy and all their money had gone to pay Billy's medical bills so he did not think about it very much, but when Gabe was 15, he crossed paths with Mike Clark from Tampa, FL of Advocates of Love. Mike was in the Samana Province of the Dominican Republic looking to build a Children's Home and partner with a local church when he met Pastor Elias of Gabe's church.

"I met Mike Clark, my dad. I love him. I love the Clarks. They don't have my blood but they are my family," said Gabe.

Gabe began to volunteer at the Children's Home sponsored by Advocates of Love as the Children's Pastor. Advocates of Love can house 15 children and has a community based program that helps children with suitable guardians. However, they are severely lacking medical, emotional, and educational care. They also currently operate two children's churches.

(continued)

"If there is a God in Heaven, save my brother and I will follow you forever."



Two years pass. Gabe still slept at the church, went to school, and volunteered at the Children's home. It was at this time that Mr. Clark told Gabe that God had laid it on his heart to bring him to Tampa, FL for his senior year of high school. Gabe then remembered what God told him and confirmed through others two years ago, that he was going to move. Mr. Clark told him that if he could arrange for his passport, he would take care of the rest.

"I was seventeen years old, three years a Christian, and I could feel the Lord calling me to Tampa. Everything came together and Dad came to get me in July."

Gabe now has three younger siblings. He has his own bedroom. "They gave me privilege, gave me a room, everything I needed. I am their son," says Gabe. "They have always been there when I am sick, when moments are hard. They opened up their hearts and I am not home-sick."

Gabe says that the biggest thing the Clarks did for him was to open up his heart. When he arrived he describes himself as very judgmental. The church he came from in the Dominican Republic was very legalistic. So, at school when he saw students doing things they shouldn't do, he didn't want to go there. Gabe started to question God on why he was sent to Tampa. "I had to learn to accept people as they are. Mom and Dad told me, 'Don't judge. Stop doing that if you want to grow.'" At lunch, he said he started sitting with people who were

"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps."

walking with the Lord. He saw a couple guys sitting on their own and his old ways told him that he should preach to them, but not hang out with them. The old Gabe would never befriend someone who was not Christian.

With fresh eyes and humility, Gabe befriended Alex Huppman and another senior. They did not have a conversation about God until 4 months into the friendship. Gabe was particularly moved after a Wednesday Chapel and when he shared that with Alex and his other friend, they told him that they were atheists. "This went against everything I have fought for the past three years," Gabe said. But this opportunity to witness gave Gabe purpose. With schoolwork keeping him busy, it was going to be very difficult to find time to share his faith. Alex told him that he would not change his beliefs, but that he would listen. This was the opportunity he was looking for.

Gabe would share the daily conversations he had with Alex with his parents at dinner and they would encourage him. At one point, he told Alex, "I will prove to you that for something to be real, you do not have to see it or touch it. You have a brain, right? Have you ever seen your brain or touched your brain? How do you know it is real? So God is real as well. Just because you cannot see Him or touch Him doesn't mean he isn't real. I can go to the doctor and pay him to see [an image] my brain. That is exactly like Christ. I am like that doctor here to show you Christ is real. You need someone to show you. Nothing here is possible without a creator."

Gabe knows that it is not enough

to tell someone about Christ, but it's important to share Christ with them and then show Christ through your daily actions. He credits his mom and dad, the Clarks, for being the example. He says they showed him love, the love that Christ has for us. It was eye opening for Gabe to see Christ's love lived out in his family. They listen and give advice. "They show me Christ in how they act."

In this, Gabe realized he was showing God's love to his friends that didn't know Christ. Alex brought a cake to school in February to celebrate Gabe's birthday. This touched him beyond belief. A friendship that less than a year ago, he thought would have been impossible, was now flourishing. His new friends even came to church with Gabe to see him preach!

One night in April, Gabe was working on homework and he received a text from Alex wanting him to know that he had accepted Christ as his Savior and wanted to thank Gabe for



helping him on that journey. Gabe leap out of his chair screaming and ran to the kitchen to tell his mom. They hugged and rejoiced! Gabe said, "I was always a strong believer, but to

see the Holy Spirit come into someone's heart is powerful." He believes the only reason the Lord brought him here was to share Christ with as many people as possible.

Applying for college has been an adventure that would not have been possible without his mom. He is very grateful saying "Mom is awesome, showing me love by helping me look for colleges in Florida." Gabe thought he might be interested in architecture or graphic design but the schools that accepted his TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score did not have those majors. The unknown circumstances of his future kept Gabe up at night. In the U.S. on a student visit until May, unless he was accepted into another school, Gabe is unable to work to earn money for college and was starting to fear that he might have to return to the D.R. His father had a friend at Word of Life Bible Institute in Hudson and Gabe felt that the Lord was closing many doors to narrow a path toward ministry. Word of Life Bible Institute accepted him on the last day his visa was valid! "Mom did her job! God puts people in our lives to help us. I feel called to ministry. It is the main goal for which the Lord calls us." This draws to the heart of one of Gabe's favorite verses, "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps." Proverbs 16:9.

Gabe is grateful for his time at CCS in a Christian environment. His teachers cared for him, encouraged his learning and appreciated his hard work ethic. He brought his grades up so much over the year and is so thankful for his teachers that made such a difference in his life. "Mr. Ater is a wonderful person. Math was very difficult. He stayed with me after 7th period and we would go over it. He took his free period off to tutor me and Mrs. Ackerman – you have to know her. You have to be responsible and you will have a great time with her. Teachers like that inspire me. CCS was an amazing place to study and such a good experience for me." □

Lancer ALUMN!
1964~



Josh '04 & Katie Eicholtz announce the birth of their 2nd son Nolan Joshua, born May 8, 2016. Nolan joins big brother Jacob in the Eicholtz family. Josh and family continue to serve as missionaries with Wycliffe/JAARS and are currently living in Papua New Guinea.



Natalie Huggins '04 and Ryan Winter were married on April 9th in Jacksonville Beach. Natalie & Ryan reside in Jacksonville Beach where Natalie is an Emergency Room Nurse at the Mayo Clinic.

Build A Legacy



Brett Falconer '12 graduated from Florida State University with a BS in Accounting. He will be returning in the fall to FSU to complete his Masters in Accounting. He is pictured with his dad, Mike, mom, Karen and his sister, Tori '15 who is currently a student at the University of Florida. ▼



Here is a pic from Ben Crayton and Katie Small's wedding last summer! It includes all the Cambridge alumni who attended.

Both Ben and Katie live here in Tampa where Ben is employed with Raymond James as an Alternative Products Specialist and Katie works for St. Joseph's Hospital as a charge nurse. ▼



▲ Front row left to right: Kambria Sims, Katie Small Crayton, Maid of honor McKensey Smith, bridesmaid Katie Lamphier and Holly Matthews.

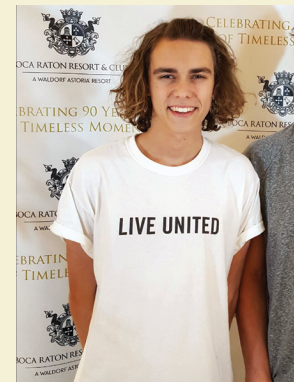
Back row Ben Crayton, groomsmen William Bakos, Spencer Smith, Corey Sims, groomsmen Alex Kistler, groomsmen Kyle Sims, Scott Voth, and groomsmen Peter Crayton



Matt Eicholtz (c/o 2005) ▲ received his Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University on May 14, 2016. He is currently working at Oak Ridge Laboratory in Knoxville, TN where he and his wife Patricia now reside.



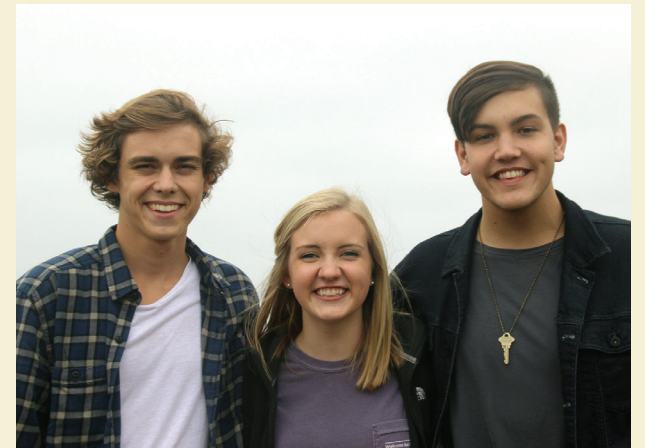
Spencer Smith '11 is currently a Graduate Assistant on the coaching staff for University of Oklahoma. He and Scott Thompson (former Lancer AD) were both on the staff that took the Oklahoma Sooners to the basketball final 4 this year. Once a Lancer, Always a Lancer ▼



▲ AJ Cooper, CCS Class of 2015, Florida State University Class of 2019

One of the highlights of this past year was taking road trips to Birmingham and to Tennessee to visit Cambridge friends. ▲ Pictured: AJ Cooper, Elise Grove, Josiah Kent.

AJ is a Sophomore at FSU majoring in Marketing. After an intense multiple-step interview process he was recently offered a position with Red Bull as the FSU Student Brand Manager. As an SBM he will be responsible for driving the brand image on campus, coordinating promos & events, etc. This summer they fly him to Oklahoma for training. A position with Red Bull has been a dream goal of his since middle school.



▲ Christian Cooper, CCS Class of 2012, University of Florida Class of 2016.

Christian Cooper graduated this May with a degree in Public Relations. He was blessed with two fantastic offers for internships/graduate development programs in San Francisco and New York City. He chose to accept a position with the top agency in the country, Edelman Public Relations in San Francisco. He was the only graduate chosen to join their technology group, specifically working on the XBOX and Microsoft accounts. Two brands that he is well-acquainted with!

Both boys have enjoyed being involved in on-campus Christian organizations like CRU at UF and YoungLife at FSU and have found great home churches.



▲ Heather Clayton '98 is teaching in Shenzhen, China. Her love of travel has taken her to teach overseas and she loves it! She says that after working for the School District of Hillsborough County for over 11 years she decided she needed a change. "Traveling has always been a passion of mine, especially within the last few years after trips to Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Everest Base Camp (Nepal), and the Altai Mountains (Mongolia). So, I started to search for teaching jobs overseas. I found the company QSI (Quality Schools International) through a recruiting firm and fell in love with it.

I have been afforded the opportunities to travel more to Hong Kong, Hanoi and Halong Bay (Vietnam), Bangkok and Chiang Mai (Thailand), and Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai (China). Next school year, I am already planning trips to Myanmar and South Korea. I find myself extremely blessed to have been granted this opportunity to teach students from all over the world and to be in the position I am in."



We are so pleased to hear about our Lancers serving their community, their country and the world. Please share your stories and pictures via email to Marty Hillier, mhillier@ccslancers.com.

Build
A Legacy

Guidance and Academic Advising



FLORIDA
SOUTHERN

NAVEL
ACADEMY

CITADEL

UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA
STATE

AUBURN

This summer we have been busy making renovations in various spaces throughout the Upper School. One of the new redesigned spaces is the new home for our

Guidance and Academic Advising Center. We are so excited about this space which is located in the US senior/junior hallway near our renovated Media Center. Guidance and academic advising is an important component that facilitates a smoother transition for students as they move from high school to college. At Cambridge, we seek to prepare students for college and life, and our advising team strives to lead in this pursuit, through a Biblical perspective. CCS resolves to partner with families in order to realize our commitment towards Kingdom education, which seeks to develop young adults who possess a Biblical worldview. We encourage our students to develop a relationship with Christ, and assist them as they seek to develop their God-given abilities to pursue God's will for their lives. Our new Advising Center will enable our advising team to expand our current program as we encourage each student to achieve their greater purpose and calling.

The center now provides us with the space to host small group workshops for students, teachers and families, one-to-one advising and group sessions, and to host college reps as they come on campus for additional college meetings. Some of the topics for these workshops will be College Essay Writing, Scholarships, and Career Planning among many others. Adjacent to the Advising Center you will find Mrs. Jimenez and Mrs. Watson's offices. These amazing ladies constitute our advising team. They play an influential role on campus in our efforts to enhance learning, remove barriers, and encourage students to succeed. This new space will serve as a vehicle which will facilitate the advising team to expand their impact on our campus. We encourage and welcome everyone to come by and visit their offices and the center. Additionally, be on the look-out for the new Advising Newsletter which will contain information on college and career topics, as well as dates for deadlines, events and meetings.

Greater > things