

May 25, 2010

Dear Parents,

In 1984, the vision of a handful of Christian parents was born when Coventry Christian Schools opened its doors for the first time. In reality, the doors belonged to the Coventry Hills Church of Christ. The 1990's blessed us with our own doors at South Keim and Rt. 724, and in 2003, we acquired the keys to the Pleasantview building, which brought with it the promise of greater resources for growth and development of our preschool, elementary and secondary programs. In 2010, God blessed us with yet one more set of doors—this time to our long awaited Events Center! Through it all, CCS has existed to partner with parents in a community of academic excellence, nurturing young people in the faith, hope, and love of Jesus Christ, equipping them to serve God and others. This mission has been blessed and accomplished in remarkable fashion over the first 26 years of our school community. God has faithfully provided for the fulfillment of our mission all along the way, and for that we give Him thanks.

We are excited to share with you another vision that will soon become a reality for Coventry Christian Schools. When we purchased the Pleasantview campus seven years ago, we secured a tremendous opportunity to grow and enhance our programs. It is more than twice the size of the Coventry campus, with over 60,000 square feet of indoor space and 13.2 acres of land. It boasts a capacity for 500 students, room enough to house all existing students from both campuses with room for 150 new students as well. We have been renovating the building and making capital improvements. We have completely overhauled and replaced much of the HVAC system, replaced the flooring in most classrooms, and remodeled half of the bathrooms and most classrooms. A science lab with brand new furniture and fixtures was added five years ago. Very nice bathrooms have been added to preschool classrooms, a wonderful nursery and a toddler room have both been added, and the playground has been expanded. A fitness room with cardio and weight training equipment was installed, and many instructional classrooms contain installed multimedia equipment such as projectors and a Smart board. This spring, we opened our Events Center, a full-size gymnasium which, when all phases are complete, will also be a performing arts center. Over the summer, the renovation and remodeling of the old gym will take place to convert it into a formal auditorium.

Two years ago, the administration began discussing the benefits, enhancements, and additions to our programs and facilities that might be realized by housing all of our programs at the Pleasantview campus. For the last year, we have been developing scenarios and plans for moving our Coventry campus students to Pleasantview. We are pleased to share with you that the administration and school board have decided that the next chapter in the story of Coventry Christian Schools should begin in the fall of 2011 with the realization of a preschool through 12th grade campus. The Pleasantview campus provides the necessary space and resources for the quality enhancements necessary to take Coventry Christian Schools to the next level of excellence in authentically Christian education.

This exciting development is the result of months of prayer, planning, and productive debate. The sharing of resources that have historically been duplicated at each campus (support services, maintenance, custodial, utilities, transportation, etc.) combined with the sale of the Coventry campus, will allow for 12-15% of the 2010-11 budget to be reallocated and invested in future facility additions and improvements, enhanced curriculum materials, acquisition of new technology, professional development of faculty, and additional educational and extracurricular programs that will help us better fulfill our mission. Money currently spent on overhead and debt service would become available for initiatives that expand opportunities for our students. It also will allow us to invest in the future of CCS so that we can stay focused on quality enhancements that will better equip future classes of alumni.

Everyone will benefit from the campus consolidation in 2012. Faculty, administration, and staff will no longer spend time and resources traveling back and forth between campuses, leading to an increase in productivity and increased availability to those they serve—our students. The one-campus model will increase collegiality and professional growth opportunities for faculty as they reap the professional benefits of working in closer relationships with each other, enjoying more opportunities for collaborative work on behalf of their students. As a result, improved continuity between grade levels and programs will enhance our ability to deliver our mission in focused, consistent, and connected efforts across grade levels, yet in the same building.

Coventry campus students will immediately experience the benefits of larger classrooms, the Events Center (a real gym for PE and indoor recess!), use of the adjacent Gerald Richards Park, and many specialized classrooms that were unavailable at Coventry. Students will have an art studio, a science lab, an expansive library with more resources (both paper and electronic), a dedicated cafeteria, and a newly renovated and remodeled auditorium for chapel and assemblies. Elementary and preschool teachers are excited about the size of their new classrooms, which will provide greater opportunities for differentiated instruction, creation of learning centers, improved classroom management, integration of new technology, cooperative learning activities and built-in storage in every room.

In addition to all of the benefits to the faculty and students alike, CCS families will appreciate the simplicity of “one-stop shopping” that will streamline their daily routine. Families with students at both campuses will now have just one stop in their morning and afternoon. The layout of the Pleasantview campus provides for safe and efficient student drop-off, pick-up, and bus arrival and dismissal.

The vision of a Christian school conceived in 1983 has in so many ways become a reality, but we must move beyond those pioneering years of realizing the physical existence of facilities and programs and on to ensuring that each graduating class is better equipped to serve God than the class before it. The quality enhancements that we will be able to make with these exciting changes clear the way for the next chapter in the exciting story of faith and community that is Coventry Christian Schools. No change in the history of CCS has ever been announced without some questions and reservations, and we know that despite the benefits of and excitement surrounding this decision, you may still have misgivings about it. We want to be as helpful as we can in answering your questions and addressing any concerns you may have. We would also like to hear about your excitement as well. Please do not hesitate to contact your principal or program director to discuss with him or her. We have included a FAQ document for your review.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Niehls on behalf of the Board of Trustees