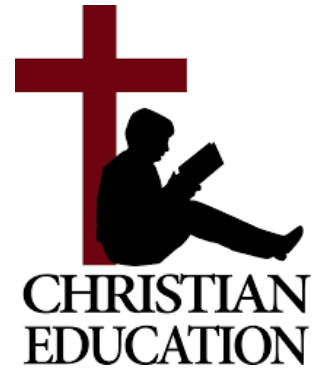


The Great Need for Christian Education

A Commentary by James De Young (Feb. 16, 2018)

Is it too much to say that Christian schools are essential to the spiritual and moral health of our nation? Could they even be a remedy for the school violence that occur across our country, as we recently witnessed in Florida on Valentine's Day. The media can talk about how to prevent such school shootings and other violent crime—linking them to such things as lack of gun control or lack of aid for mentally challenged people. But do you notice how no one addresses school violence as an issue of morality? Isn't this the heart of the matter?



Where do our kids learn morality? Of course, it comes from their faith—from Christianity and the Bible. The link between faith and morality is as strong as steel. But note again, no one is talking about the decline of faith and its attendant morality.

Many young people grow up in broken homes; many do not attend church or youth meetings. And in our culture, evangelical faith is increasingly maligned. In our public schools, religion is purposefully set aside or even forbidden. We use to have prayer and Bible reading in our public schools—yes we really did! But then the atheist Madelyn Murray Ohara went to court in the 60's to stop such a practice. As a result, we have had a decline in moral teachings over the past fifty years. The stripping of our moral education may finally and frequently be rearing its head as public violence.

The root of school shootings and of all evil is sin—human depravity. Until we as a country are willing to acknowledge this and return to the foundations that made our nation not only great but also good, there will be no end to such evils. Indeed, Satan is seeking to destroy America, and he can use entertainment and even schools to continually degrade our faith and morality.

Christian schools like DCS stand as one of the last bulwarks against the rise of evil in our society. The Lord Jesus beckons us Christians to be both salt and light to our depraved generation—to act as correctives in our culture and to show the way to truth and moral wholeness.

Feed the Need Fundraiser

For over fifteen years DCS has conducted an annual fundraiser to address various needs for our facilities, scholarships, technology and curriculum. Historically these fundraisers have brought in an annual average of \$30,000. This year we are doing a similar fundraiser



hoping to complete our STEM initiative. If each student is able to raise \$200, we will meet our goal!

However, we also have a new look and feel to our fundraiser. We would like to direct attention beyond ourselves and meet the needs of others outside our community. Instead of keeping all of the funds raised, we will be using 30% to provide meals to the country of Rwanda as an act of love and compassion. Our students and their families will actually personally pack these meals themselves. Please continue to fundraise until March 6th when we will conclude collecting donations. And plan to meet as a school family on the morning of March 17th to pack our meals and feed the need!

You may give by cash, check or through this secure link: https://squareup.com/store/dcs_dcef
Please share this with your family and friends and ask them to join us in this endeavor. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 through this fundraiser to complete the following STEM initiatives:

- **Wi-Fi improvements:** Tap into dark fiber, which runs along Highway 212 and is the fastest in the state. Cost – approximately \$15,000
- **Projectors and Document Cameras:** Replaces our decade old equipment. Cost – approximately \$5,000
- **Portable Chromebook Cart with 30 Chromebooks:** Increases access for our students. Cost – approximately \$10,000
- **Pack of 20 iPads:** Increases access for our students. Cost – approximately \$6,000
- **Science/Math lab equipment and curriculum:** Replaces and updates current equipment. Cost – approximately \$8,000

If you have questions about this fundraiser or would like to volunteer at the packing event, please contact Kristie Herdener at 503-658-4100, ext 105, or at Kristie.Herdener@DamascusCC.org.

Recent News

RE-ENROLLMENT: We have been observing an almost unprecedented interest in enrollment at DCS for next year. Praise the Lord! It is essential that you re-enroll your students for next year by March 2nd. The benefits in doing so may not be obvious, so please let me spell them out.

- 1) You will be reimbursed a \$100 of the re-enrollment fee if you electronically re-enroll by March 2nd. After that, your fees will not be credited back to you on next year's tuition.
- 2) Your child will be guaranteed a spot in their class next year. Several classes are near capacity, and interested students may fill vacant spots left by our current students if they do not re-enroll.



- 3) Your secondary student will be scheduling soon for the classes they wish to take next year. Having an inaccurate count during forecasting derails next year's scheduling process.

SAFETY: In light of Florida's tragic school shooting, which has unfortunately become too familiar in our culture, we at DCS wanted to review the steps we have taken to ensure your child's safety.



- 1) We keep all exterior doors locked and most interior doors locked during the day.
- 2) We moved from 28 exterior access points to five electronic key card access doors, three of which utilize a dedicated camera.
- 3) We consult with Clackamas County Sheriffs Department and other law enforcement agencies yearly to receive feedback on ways to improve our campus security.
- 4) We run at least two lock down drills yearly.
- 5) We utilize a radio system for improved communication.
- 6) We upgraded our security cameras to HD cameras.
- 7) We updated our Safety and Security Protocol to be in alignment with FEMA.

Despite these improvements, we are constantly pursuing ways to improve. We also know from the feedback of professionals and the examination of other tragic violent events that we can never guarantee perfect security and implementation of our protocols. This reaffirms the fallen world we live in as a result of sin and the ultimate trust we need to have in God.

ELEMENTARY AWARDS FOR JANUARY:

Each month, elementary teachers acknowledge students, who demonstrate characteristics of David, Solomon, and Paul (spiritual fruits). The following students were recipients for the month of January. Great job everyone!

	DAVID AWARD	SOLOMON AWARD	PAUL AWARD for GOODNESS
K	Xeya BigEagle	Jacob Richards	Mary Green
1st	Miley Foley	Kyler Smith	Christine Lupulescu
2nd	Madison Searls	Brian Buller	Brielle Balensifer
		Michael Hannah	
3rd	LillyAnne Larson	Gavin Zeller	Calvin Green
4th	Jon Janzen	Shawn Johnson	Tay Balensifer
5th	Kate Nelson	Devin Trost	Reece Miller
6th	Demetri Carandanis	Samantha Boyette	Esther Davidson

Upcoming Events

- Friday, March 2nd – NO SCHOOL (Reward for Spirit Week Activities)

- Friday, March 2nd – Re-enrollment due
- Friday, March 9th – NO SCHOOL: Teacher In-service
- Friday, March 16th – End of the 3rd Quarter (11:45 dismissal for K-6th Grade and Noon dismissal for 7th and 8th Grade)
- Saturday, March 17th – Food Packing Party for Feed the Need Fundraiser

Staff Spotlight: Elaine Powers

My name is Elaine Powers, and I'm locally grown—born and raised here, never moved away. I love the Northwest. I enjoy mountain climbing, snowboarding, hiking, water skiing and all that the outdoors offers in the Pacific Northwest. In my free time, you might see me biking on the Springwater Corridor, running in an obstacle race or playing a team sport. I'm also a wife and mother of four. We truly believe that a family that prays and plays together stays together.

I enjoy teaching, coaching, and sharing my love for sports with others. I taught PE for two years at a local K-8 Christian School. I like working with students of all ages. This has best been demonstrated through coaching. I've coached various age girls and boys YMCA teams, organized and put on various basketball camps and clinics as a youth ministry outreach, and spent 12 years as a 1A High School Girls Basketball coach. No stranger to DCS, I'm in my fourth year coaching JH Girls basketball here.

I'm truly blessed to be able to serve at DCS in the PE Department.

Outreach Opportunities

SPRING BREAK ROCKWOOD OUTREACH: DCC will be hosting a Sports Camp March 26th -28th at



the Salvation Army Youth Center in Rockwood, Oregon. Adult volunteers and students age 12 and above are invited to serve together at this camp. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pastor Andy McClellan at 503-658-3179.

Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

BAKER CITY BOUND: Congratulations to our basketball teams for very successful seasons.

Elementary and junior high teams have finished up, but our high school teams have rallied for some end-of-the-season excitement. Although both high school teams made it to sub-state, the girls had a surprising win over Perrydale and will be advancing to Baker City. Great job to all our players, coaches, and fans this year!

SPRING SPORTS: Track is starting this week! With numerous events to compete in, track and field is a great sport to develop fundamental athletic skills and discover success in one to over a dozen events. It is also a great individual and team sport. We have two new coaches and several volunteers who bring a range of experiences and accolades, which will be an asset to our junior high and high school teams this year.

SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION: This spring's drama production is Agatha Christie's murder-mystery *Black Coffee*. Alumni Kaleb Easterbrooks will again be directing. Show dates are May 3rd – 5th and 10th – 12th. Ticket information will come soon.



Damascus Community Church

Sunday Services: 8:15 & 11:00 AM

Community Groups: 9:45 AM

Children's Sunday School: 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 AM

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