

Dear CCS Parents and Families,

I hope each of you is doing well as we round out the month of September and head into October, Fall colors, cooler temperatures, and the annual “pumpkin-vasion” of all things pumpkin-spiced.

October is an especially long month in the school year, and my letter this month will reflect a little more information than usual. I’d like to begin by continuing to ask that we all pray for those affected by Hurricane Ian and keep them in prayer. Additionally, Community Bible Church is currently collecting items for relief, through Monday, October 3. Please see our CCS Facebook page for more details, if you are interested in helping out.

*It Was an Awesome Grandparents Day*

Thanks to all who attended and participated in our Grandparents Day on September 16! The turnout was even greater than anticipated, and it was great to celebrate our grandparents and at the same time to see our youngest CCS Knights perform and interact with their very special VIPs. Special thanks to all of our CCS staff that worked to set up and coordinate this special day.

*Turning Your Tax Dollars Into Support for Our Students – The Arete Campaign*

In recent “Looking Ahead” weekly newsletters, we have alluded to working with the Arete Scholars organization to enable tax credit donations for CCS student scholarships. I am pleased to announce that we are fully launching this campaign in October! Simply put, if you would like to contribute a portion of what you would normally pay in Georgia State Income tax to specifically support our school, we would gratefully appreciate your doing so via the Arete website.

I fully realize that taxes and finances, especially at this time, are sensitive matters. However, the advantage of this program is that it results in a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. In other words, when donors are approved, each dollar donated will represent a dollar tax credit toward your Georgia tax obligation.

You may have two immediate questions. First, you may ask “is this the same as Georgia Goal?” In short, yes – this program is rooted in Georgia House Bill 1133, and we have previously used the Georgia Goal program for this work. Our aim in working with Arete Scholars is to provide a more user-friendly platform and enhanced client support to ensure success. You may also ask “why should I consider making this sort of donation to CCS?” There are many reasons, but at this time I would draw your attention to these:

More scholarship funds will allow us to grow our student body of future Christian leaders.

An increased student body and tuition funding will continue to ensure that we attract and retain the high-quality teaching faculty we expect at Community Christian.

Similarly, an increase in qualified students will increase and enhance our academic and extracurricular opportunities for our learners.

*If you would like more information in considering this opportunity, please see the attached items including an invitation to our next Coffee and Conversation event, on October 14, at CCS. You are also welcome to contact me, Ms. Ciji Phillips, or Ms. Tiffany Wilson with any questions you may have.*

### *New Parking Plan*

*And speaking of Coffee and Conversation, we got some great feedback from our first event in late August. From that, and along with our own close observation, we are making some changes to our parent, student, and staff parking plan. Please see the attached coded map for designated parking areas. Especially in the morning drop-off period, we know that this will reduce congestion and, more importantly, create clearer and safer walkways for our youngest students and their parents. Our staff has been “practicing” this plan this week; our goal is to fully put it in place beginning Monday.*

*One additional request on parking: if you are an elementary, middle, or high school parent dropping off in the morning and need any additional time or assistance, we ask that you please drop off in front of our Elementary/Chambers Road entrance. We have staff there to assist, and this will keep things flowing more smoothly at our Mt. Olive/Main School Office entrance.*

### *“Calling” All Parents: Team Up With Us on Proper Cell Phone and Social Media Usage*

*Your middle or high school student may have mentioned that our secondary Principal, Dr. Hutcheson, our Security Director, Mr. Fortner, and I visited all our secondary classes this week to discuss appropriate use of cell phones and social media for students. We are grateful not to have a significant issue with this at this time, but we also know that in this day and time no school campus is totally immune from the temptation to make bad choices. Please talk with your child and, if you like, review page 22 in our secondary handbook with them as that contains the policy language we referenced. Specifically, we reminded students that phones should not be in use during the school day unless for specific and monitored instructional purposes. With respect to social media, we reminded students not to post or share anything, even outside of school, that would jeopardize their character and testimony or would cause harm to others. We gratefully appreciate your support in encouraging your child in this message!*

### *In Closing, Back to All Things Fall...*

*As I mentioned, October is full of great Fall events and festivities. If you find yourself on McDonough Square with its annual Scarecrow festival, please check out our CCS Knight on display. Later this month, as we head into Homecoming weekend, we’d love to see you join us for our annual celebration bonfire on October 20, and at the CCS football field. Finally, please consider joining us on Saturday, October 29, for our CCS Maker’s Market and stay for the Community Bible Church “Trunk and Treat” event – great fun for kids and grown ups alike!*

*Sincerely and Gratefully,*

*Matt Isenberg*

*Head of Schools*

*Community Christian School*