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*Matt Isenberg | December 7, 2022 | Head Of School Letters*

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Dear CCS Parents and Families,

It's truly hard to believe that we are in December - December 7th to be exact! I hope each of you and your families are off to a great Christmas season and have gotten to enjoy some of the Christmas and holiday activities we have already had. I also hope that, like me, you can look at this past semester with a sense of gratitude for the things we have accomplished together as a school, church, and parent community. It's been a busy first half at CCS!

### ***The Semester in Review***

Again, it's been a busy semester here at Community and it would be impossible, or at least too long of a letter, to try to recap all the great things that have happened. In summary, our year began with the blessing of a normal return to school and with students, staff, and families all able to participate in the regular routines and procedures of school life. A great blend of veteran and new team members on staff welcomed our students, and learning took off at a great pace!

We had some really great opportunities to come together early in the semester that included a successful Boosterthon Fun Run and the return of a fully attended Grandparents Day in September. Also notable were the increases in parent participation in events such as our Coffee and Conversation discussions as well as our fantastic PTO functions.

Athletically, while our football record was not what we hoped it would be, it did represent strong growth from the previous season, and our new athletic director Coach Bruce, and his staff did a lot to build the program. Our volleyball team had a standout season, making it deep into the GAPPS playoffs and showing great promise for the future. Our cheerleaders led our fans in support and encouragement, and we ended the semester with strong starts in both the basketball and swimming seasons.

From a fine arts perspective, CCS was getting finer by the day this semester! Under the leadership of Ms. Cooper and Mr. Markow, we launched the inaugural Marching Knights Band who added a whole new performance element to our games. Also in band news, we had successful concerts and even had multiple students selected to apply for All State recognition. From the vocal side of things, under the direction of Mr. Bennett, our chorus took second place for the STATE in choral competition. Our One Act Play team, under the leadership of new teacher Ms. Melinda Phillips, also had a strong competitive performance and is now working on our spring production of Shrek, the Musical.

Academically, we also had some great highlights and accomplishments. Our Middle and High School Quiz Bowl teams under Coach Bailey had competitive outings as did our History Bowl team under Coach Maurer. Our CCS Science Fair was very successful and reflected the scientific method of inquiry led by new teacher Ms. Rochelle Nichols. And, of particular note, Coach Ingrid Ventura led our High School Math team 2nd place honors at the state level!

Spiritually, our students have grown this semester through dynamic chapels, daily lessons in their Bible and academic classes, and in opportunities to serve and support missions locally and abroad. For our high school students, there were numerous opportunities to perform community service in support of others, perhaps most notably in preparation for the upcoming mission trip to Guatemala.

Operationally we made several adjustments and improvements at CCS this semester and many were based on feedback and input from our students, families, and staff. Some of these changes included increased investment in security and an increased police presence on our campus. Similarly, our security and operations teams made significant improvements to our traffic flow and check-in processes all leading to improved safety. From a communications standpoint, we have worked to increase and improve our use of social media to better inform our students and families. To that end, I am excited to announce that we will begin to Livestream major events such as our Elementary and (upcoming) Early Education Christmas concerts in order to allow CCS families to share these experiences with loved ones who may be far away. And based on feedback and input from parents, students, and staff, I am also pleased to announce that we will be unveiling our completely redesigned and improved website when we come back from the Christmas break!

### **And Speaking of Christmas...**

I want to thank everyone that came out for our Community Bible Church/Community Christian School Christmas Tree lighting and concert event on November 27. It was a great start to the Christmas season and led straight into our successful first entry of a float in the McDonough Christmas parade this past week. One of only a few schools to enter a float, CCS came away with overall 2nd place honors! Special thanks to all the parents, staff, and students who worked on this project and who came out in support.

Additionally, and in this season of giving, I do want to share our Christmas “wish list” with you. First and foremost, we ask for the gift of your prayers - prayers that God will continue to bless us with a safe and positive school campus, that He will bless the work of our hands with success for our students, and success in our mission of growing the next generation of Godly leaders, and success in growing our student population through increased enrollment.

On the point of enrollment, if you are pleased with the experience your child is having here at CCS our fervent wish is for you to participate in our Arete Scholars campaign. This campaign ends on December 15, and it is a great way to support the enrollment of students new to private school and CCS in particular while at the same time providing you a dollar-for-dollar matched tax credit for your 2023 State of Georgia taxes. Candidly, I will share with you that we are far below our goal in this drive and ask that you use the link below to examine and consider this opportunity (and share it with others who may be interested). Simply put, if we had 100% participation at even a small amount per family, we could radically increase our ability to increase our student body and further enhance the experience for each student here at CCS. Please see this FAQ document, as well as this link to the Arete portal, to participate. And, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our team and we will be happy to speak with you.

Our last Christmas wish is that, if you do not have a current church home, you consider Community Bible Church! Our Brighter Days series has started this month and, if you think Community Christian School is active in making an impact for Christ, I can only say that you would be pleased with the ways that you can get involved and be nurtured at CBC. One such opportunity that your child may be interested in is the upcoming CBC youth camp with its theme of "Fighting the Good Fight." Please see recent and upcoming issues of Looking Ahead for information, and know that the parent orientation for camp will be this Sunday, December 11, immediately following church services.

In closing, and on behalf of our faculty and staff, I want to thank each one of you for trusting us with your most precious children. We wish you the merriest of Christmases, and that the peace of God and joy of the gift of His son Jesus follows you and yours throughout the season.

Sincerely,  
Matt

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