

2019-2020 Christian Academy Annual Review

A year of challenges, but our mission remains unchanged

Christian Academy is **more than academics, sports, science, and the arts.**
We are also **more than an integrated Bible program, missions, and spiritual growth.**
We are **a Christian community.**

“Some 2020 seniors have stolen my heart.

Our family changed schools this year. I say, ‘our family,’ not just my kids, because we also left dear friends when we switched schools. And, it’s been brutal. The first day of school at drop off, I sat in the parking lot and cried for 30 minutes, convinced we’d made the wrong decision. But it wasn’t long before my kids came home talking about boys named Ian, TJ, Chips, and several others. I assumed they were boys in their class, but later found out they were seniors on the boys’ basketball team.

Some had outdoor lunch while my boys had recess. They used this time, not to hang out with their friends, but to play basketball with my first & second grader. All of these young men volunteered to officiate at my boys’ intramural games. They were amazing examples. In our last week before school let out, I went to pick my boys up. They were crying inconsolably. The boys’ basketball team was on their way to regionals when they called the bus back and cancelled the tournament. Not sure how everything they had looked forward to could have been taken away more cruelly. My kids had rounded the corner into the gym on the seniors in tears. And, it broke them. And, honestly, it broke me. I know those boys will always remember disappointment and lost opportunities.

But I’m going to remember how much they meant to our family... how they went out of their way to be kind to my kids at a time of transition for our family. Thank you 2020 Seniors! We love you & are going to miss you more than you know.”

-Elementary parent



“You can look at test scores, athletics or cost, but you walk into the halls and you see the difference. It takes a village and we found ours. If this is where God wants you to be, it’s where you’ll end up. The school is doing more than I could do. It is a great place that is home for you.”

-Kindergarten parent



“The Day of Prayer taught me to turn my concerns and my desires over to God. It felt like a huge weight was lifted off me after the session on confession. It also helped me with relationships with others. I felt God’s forgiveness and peace.”

-Elementary student

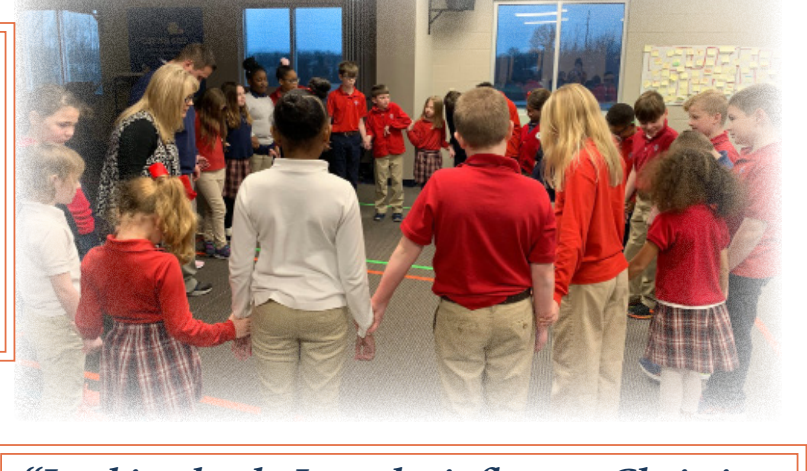
“This year, I learned how to love God in hard times, how much Jesus cares for me and how to pray to Him.”

-Elementary student



“God is the ultimate storyteller, and all theater offers a unique way to share the ultimate drama of redemption. That is what makes Christian Academy performances special.”

-High school theater student



“I think that God has used this (science) program and Christian Academy, in general, to reveal himself in my studies.”

-High school senior



“Looking back, I see the influence Christian Academy has had on my life. I did not know the challenges I would face in college and in life, but I’m grateful for how prepared I was to defend my faith and handle the academic, social and spiritual challenges in the world.”

-Alumnus '17

“I awoke this morning rejoicing and felt like I should share my joy. Recently, I have witnessed a subtle, but sweet change in my daughter. She is a kind, loving, and thoughtful girl but in middle school, she has been struggling with her identity, just as many girls do. Middle school can be such a rocky time emotionally for these girls and I am so grateful that you saw past the ‘drama’ and are feeding their souls for all of eternity! Thank you for sacrificing your time, talents and energy. I believe God is abundantly rewarding your efforts! I am eternally grateful!”

-Middle school parent



“Every single day from preschool on we have prayed with our kids on the way to school. My kids are in 3rd, 5th, and 11th, so they do most of the speaking and praying part at this time. My fifth grader was taught the A.C.T.S method of praying in her class and was eager to use it in the morning prayer time. That method has made her communication with God so much richer and meaningful. She’s growing to be a mighty prayer warrior!”

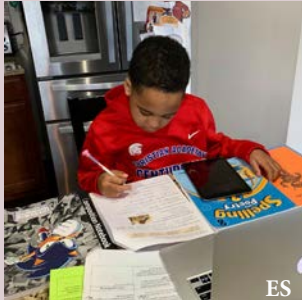
-Parent of three students



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One uncompromising mission.

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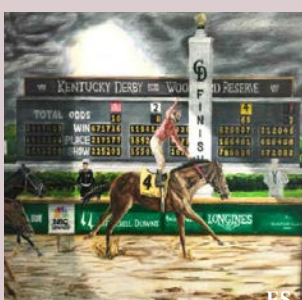
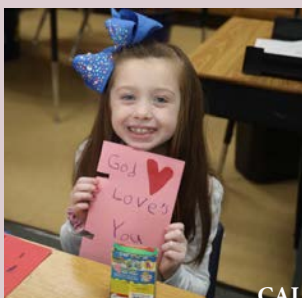


"I can't imagine getting an experience in any other school like I enjoyed at Christian Academy."
- High school junior

Christian Academy--a special experience

Only Christian Academy offers all of the following for students in the Louisville area:

- A **biblically integrated curriculum** taught by a 100% Christian faculty, 73% with masters or doctorate degrees, and over 14 years average teaching experience.
- The **area's highest rated K-12 STEM program** with college-credit biomedical and engineering classes.
- Technology supporting **K-12 remote learning**--over three years in the making.
- **Academic preparation** where 24% of students take advantage of 28 AP and 24 honors courses and 12% also receive academic support for individual learning needs.
- An environment where **spiritual foundations** are established from age 2-12th grade.
- A unique family environment where **all grades support and encourage each other**.
- Four-year **college graduation rate** by our alumni at 86% (vs. 30% national average).
- Over **\$10,500,000 in college scholarships** offered to 2020 seniors.
- A commitment to make **Christian education as affordable as possible**, providing tuition assistance to 40% of our families.



"I never saw myself as an artist, but God showed me how to use this talent to serve Him and that changed everything."
- Middle school 8th grader

Art with a message

Our nationally recognized art program allows our students to fully develop their talents while giving them local, national, and international platforms to share their work and the message of Christ. A few examples include:

- Students from all schools and all grades provided **art for a European Gospel exhibit** proclaiming the "Light of God."
- The National Scholastic Art and Writing Competition **presented 39 awards to CAL and CAI students**, with two pieces displayed in New York City's Carnegie Hall.
- Louisville **magazines highlighted student articles and art**, reaching over 20,000 households with encouraging and challenging messages.
- CAI students created Valentine **cards for WAYFM's Cards that Care** program and won numerous state awards in the Symphony in Art competition.
- Elementary students learned drawing basics **incorporating art with their own fruits of the spirit**.
- Eight student **pieces for the Derby Art competition** were displayed throughout Kentucky.
- Art clubs on various campuses gave students extra opportunities to expand and use their **talents to benefit others**.



"I want to thank Christian Academy for making these athletes who they are, for coaches that push, but also keep the most important things in the forefront. This makes sports what they should be."
- Parent of high school student at college signing

Athletics that goes beyond the playing field

The heart of an athlete is not measured in wins and losses, but in how talent is shared with others. So just imagine:

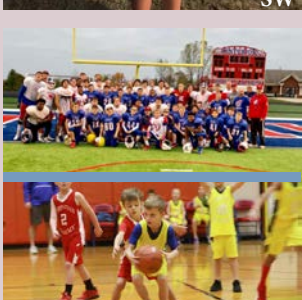
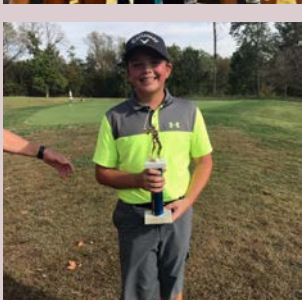
- With **over 150 total sports teams**, Kindergarten-12th grade, novice and elite athletes **all play to their potential** in an encouraging and Christ-honoring environment.
- Varsity players, playing for regional and state championships, use their free time to **encourage and teach younger students**.
- 22% of our seniors **signed to play at the college level** (vs. a 6% national average).
- **State championships** were awarded to CAL girls' basketball, girls' cross country and girls' swimming; sectional championship to CAI boys' basketball and district titles to CAL girls' soccer, girls' basketball and cross country.
- **State middle school championship** was earned in Southwest boys' golf; league, division and tournament championships in 7th grade field hockey, 3-4th and 5-6th football, 7th grade boys' basketball, and 6th grade girls' basketball.
- **Courier-Journal players of the year** in CAL girls' golf, girls' soccer and girls' basketball; CAI NTSPY honors for 12 athletes and six Courier-Journal sports awards.



"The past two years, I've gotten to a point in my faith where I not only know what I believe, but I know why I believe it and have an adequate response to anyone who questions the validity of Christian teachings on an empirical level. These courses have strengthened my faith as a believer in Christ and made me more at peace in my faith."
- High school School of Biomedical Science student

STEM based on understanding God's design behind everything

- **Extensive STEM education, beginning in Kindergarten**, uses collaborative and critical problem solving skills.
- Christian Academy is **Louisville's only high school STEM program to receive a Distinguished Designation** (now earned for a second straight year) and is only one of four schools in Louisville to offer both engineering and biomedical courses.
- **Over 30 students earned their white coats** from our School of Biomedical Science.
- CAI and CAL STEM students **participate annually in the science-based Global Missions Conference**, so they learn a higher purpose for their science education.
- Our engineering and biomedical science courses are **all eligible for college credit**.
- **Robotics can begin in elementary** and our Rock Creek competitive team also participated in national competition.



"This is community. I am supported. I am lifted with the same values that respect God and others. My daughter struggled like many middle school students will, but we have teachers who help each child separately above normal teaching. It is a family. It's the best decision we've ever made for our family."
- Middle school parent

A community of compassion and support

Christian Academy's student body reflects 340 different churches, over 37 birth countries, the full range of economic support, and a diversity broader than the general Louisville community (up to 26%, varying by campus). This is a foundation to daily appreciate and serve all diversity.

- Students **don't just learn about but they connect with different cultures**. For example, middle school students packed over 60,000 meals for a Honduran Christian school and then established regular Skype sessions to build personal cross-cultural relationships. High school students had a community outreach as they regularly visited and shared at ethnic restaurants.
- **All four campuses engage with our 18 Providence students** with Down syndrome, including our Indiana high school seniors who visited weekly to build special relationships.
- **Elementary students make a difference in outreach**, such as our Southwest campus sending letters and packages to our troops in Afghanistan and then providing a campus-wide welcome when one parent returned from duty.
- Biblical integration teaches daily **respect for each student's unique identity** in Christ, spurred on by student initiatives such as diverse Chapel speakers and the ongoing mission for students to know that Christ died for all.

But none of this matters unless there is a Biblical foundation for students

"Life isn't always easy, but I'm thankful for the help I found in Christian Academy. I'm especially grateful for my counselors who had a great impact on my life. They listened without judging and allowed me to feel like I was welcomed at any time. My personal and spiritual growth is a reflection of how this school helped me during difficult times."
- Middle school student

To experience joy in their own identity and in God's design and love

"I learned how to make my faith my own. I learned to trust the power of prayer and that God can use any person if they choose to say Yes! My advice to other students is 'don't live to be comfortable and to be bold in doing God's work.'"
- High school senior

To find purpose in serving, supporting, and being supported by others

"Before I came to CAL, school was always pretty separate from my faith. I had just never connected the two. After being a student at CAL for two years, I see that God is the most important aspect of my schoolwork. I even realized this in my science classes, the classes that, according to the world, should have disproved my faith."
- High school student

To develop a faith prepared to meet a challenging world

Especially this year, some of the year's most exciting Chapels and classroom discussions dealt with identity struggles and appreciating God's unique design in each of us. As students missed relationships with their peers, they also realized the importance of a deeper relationship with God. During remote education, 5th grade classes studied the "Case for Christ," resulting in many students giving their lives to Christ. The ACSJ prayer day gave all students a chance to deepen their relationships with God. Older students shared their own struggles in transmitted Milestone Speeches and prayed for specific struggles shared by younger students. Remote learning gave students time to reflect on their testimonies, surprising some parents with how "big" their young students were in the Lord.

"I never could have made it to graduation without your encouragement and belief in me. You gave me the extra push that I needed during a hard time in my life. I really appreciate the time you took to listen to me, pray with me and point me in the right direction. It made all the difference to know that you were there for me any time I needed to talk."
- High school senior to one of our counselors

Supporting the needs of each student

We need to address more than academics to help today's students. In an especially challenging year, our students needed to deal with many school and personal issues. Daily, we faced these struggles together.

- Elementary counselors introduced **emotional support tools** to help even young students deal with personal issues.
- Ongoing elementary **MAPS assessments** help teachers quickly identify and focus on learning gaps.
- Academic resource counselors helped students **be their own advocates** for their individual learning needs now and when they enter college.
- Rock Creek opened its innovative **Sensory Gym**, to help all students find appropriate motion therapy and classroom breaks.
- Elementary teachers and counselors **used this year's theme of "Knowing God"** to show students that God loves us, has a plan for us, and replaces fear and anxiety with truth and comfort.
- Middle school students struggling with identity and stress found support by **high school students sharing their own struggles and praying** for them, helping them turn their cares over to God.

"I'm a fifth grader and I loved it when the high school students included me in the prayer circle before the show and asked me to pray for them after they prayed for me."
- Elementary student

Theater for an audience of One

Elementary students discover they can share God in action within their first performing opportunities. Older students find they are living God's message as they are transformed by the messages they share.

- **Elementary and middle school programs** included performances of *Pilgrim's Journey* (RC), *Straight Out of Bethlehem, Peter Pan* (ES), *Sherlock Holmes* (CAI), and a new worship dance group (SW).
- Indiana's *The Diary of Anne Frank* presented horrors of Nazi supremacy, but **God had prepared our students** a year before with the opportunity to visit Frank's home while on a Poland missions trip.
- Productions of *Bye, Bye, Birdie* and *Little Women of Orchard House* (ES) and *Beauty and the Beast* (CAI) **reflected key themes** that God guides the humble, to speak in love, and love beyond differences.
- **Over 400 students participated** in our performances.
- Our high school programs have now been **selected as pilot schools** for scenic projections by Broad Media and for adjudication by outside theater judges.

"I now fully appreciate all you do to prepare our children, from your biblical integration to the relationships you build so our children can trust and talk with you."
- Middle school parent

Technology ready for uncertain times, evident in our COVID-19 / remote learning transition

Beginning over three years ago, Christian Academy began a plan to provide teachers and students with skills to teach and learn with the latest technology:

- More than **50% of our teacher development time** has been technologically based since 2018.
- Our in-house training has been guided by **our Google-certified curriculum specialists**, many of whom have been asked to instruct other area schools and teachers in teaching technology.
- This year, over 2,800 students and 300 teachers transitioned to remote learning with **only one day of interruption**.
- With devices already out to high school students, we were also **able to give Chromebooks to all 1st-8th grade students** requesting them.
- Using assignments, Zoom, and Google groups, our **Christian growth was enhanced** through student prayer and discussion groups and challenges to examine our faith in uncertain times.
- **Christian Academy remains on the cutting edge** of technological learning trends in school and college, implementing synchronized, eLearning, and remote vehicles as appropriate, while maintaining our Christian mission.

"At Christian Academy, I learned to be a steward of the gifts God has given. I no longer perform for a standing ovation, I humbly worship God with my music so I will hear Him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"
- Alumna '19

Music with a higher purpose

With over 48 different musical ensembles, Christian Academy's music program provides an exceptional music experience for every level of musical interest and ability.

- **Music begins in Kindergarten**, and our young students were recognized with six students selected to the Indiana elementary honors choir and 14 middle school students selected to Indiana and Kentucky all state choirs.
- Twenty of our high school band and choir students were selected as **all state and honors performers**, with another 41 recognized at the all district, region or section level.
- In competition, over 58 CAI soloists and ensembles received **gold or silver ratings**.
- Over **110 students led worship and praise** in our school chapels, starting in 5th through 12th grade.
- **WAVE3 featured Christmas performances** from Rock Creek, English Station and CAI, and weather promos from the CAI Show Choir.
- One of the area's best programs, the English Station **School of the Arts, celebrated its 10th anniversary**.
- In **sharing Christ with the community**, the English Station marching band's show presented "The Tower of Babel," the CAI ensembles performed at the New Albany Amphitheater and Trinity United Methodist Church, and elementary students from all campuses performed at local nursing homes and with other ministries.

