



# **Executive Summary**

## **Country Christian School**

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## **Introduction**

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

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## **Description of the School**

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Country Christian School is located between the rural communities of Molalla and Colton, 15 miles from Canby and Oregon City. Our student population of 196 students draws from many of the surrounding areas including not only Colton and Molalla, but also Canby, Estacada, Silverton, and Oregon City amongst others. While the largest percentage of CCS students attend The Country Church (46%), 39 different churches from sixteen various denominations are represented in the student body. In addition, 19% of attendees have no church affiliation.

Country Christian School is the largest ministry of The Country Church. In order to make Christian education available to all families operation expenses are subsidized by members of The Country Church, allowing us to keep our tuition affordable. Country Christian tuition is on average half the price of comparable Christian schools in the area. We have seen growth in enrollment this year, and remain optimistic that our numbers will increase even more in the coming years. In order to best meet the needs of our students and keep our excellent staff intact, we implemented block scheduling beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. At the same time we have focused on the aspect that sets us apart from the local options - a Christ centered education.

Currently, Country Christian School offers a possibility of 19 college credits, in addition to offering twelve different honor courses. Over the past five years we boast a 99% graduation rate. From last year's graduating class of eighteen students, thirteen pursued scholarship monies winning an average of \$17,172 each. Over the past eight years, students that have applied for scholarships have won an average of \$25,100. Over 85% of our graduates seek higher education.

The staff at Country Christian School consists of 25 teachers and two administrators/teachers. Tenure of the staff ranges from 30 years to the addition of four new teachers this year. The staff at CCS is extremely committed to both the school and to its students. We strive to look at each student as an individual, making sure each receives the instruction needed to succeed. Many of the staff members also volunteer as club advisors or team coaches in order to allow students to have a number of extracurricular opportunities available to them.

## School's Purpose

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

"Equipping Students to Blend Christian Character with Academic Excellence"

CCS, a missionary outreach of The Country Church, is committed to providing quality Christ-centered education to students from pre-school through high school. Our responsibility begins with a concern for each individual's personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are committed to helping students develop personal beliefs and standards based on God's Word, so those values and principles can be applied to any situation or circumstance. High academic standards in an environment conducive to learning, coupled with a faculty committed to helping each student reach full potential, characterize CCS.

### Goals of Country Christian School

1. To fulfill the scriptural command, "Train up a child in the way he should go..." (Prov. 22:6)
2. To assist each student in developing spiritual awareness that will lead to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior.
3. To help each child develop a practical knowledge of the Word of God and apply it to his/her personal life.
4. To insure that each learner has acquired the knowledge and skills which qualify him/her for promotion to the next grade.
5. To prepare high school graduates to function as effective citizens within the context of a Christ-centered life.
6. To provide a safe and secure environment for all children and minors entrusted to our care.

Country Christian School begins each day with both pledges and morning devotions. The elementary school does this in their respective classrooms while the Jr. High and High school meet together for opening announcements and devotion time. All students participate in a daily Bible class along with a weekly chapel. Country Christian is able to offer students distinctive opportunities to experience faith building roles through availing themselves to speak at a morning devotion or becoming part of the CCS worship team. High school students are also able to take on a mentoring role with a small group of junior high and high school students through small group Bible studies. These groups, led by high school mentors, meet bimonthly and are a time to develop personal devotional habits and for students to pray and encourage each other. Each of these offerings provide students an opportunity to not only share their faith but also that of taking on a unique leadership role.

High value is placed on preparing students for the calling that God has placed on their lives. This process begins by preparing each student from elementary through high school for their next level of academics. Concentrated time is spent with eleventh and twelve graders as they research colleges and careers, prepare for SAT/ACT and fill out both college and scholarship applications. It is our desire that any student choosing college as their next step can confidently move forward. College is not the selected path for all students but preparing each student to have the ability to choose higher education is built into the curriculum at CCS.

## **Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement**

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

The top priority at Country Christian School has always been, and will continue to be, a Christ centered education. Both parents and students have made it clear through annual surveys that a Christ centered education along with an environment of caring teachers and close relationships with other students is the reason they choose Country Christian School. The surveys we began using three years ago have been instrumental in creating growth and change. The installation of a water filtration system, improving the aesthetics of both the inside and outside of the buildings, updating and using technology, along with the addition of five new courses are all improvements that have been made based on recommendations from stakeholders.

One of the biggest changes we have made is in the daily schedule for our junior high and high school students. During the 2014-2015 school year we ran a hybrid schedule to experiment with block scheduling. The block classes worked so well for staff and students that we implemented a complete block schedule last year. The block schedule not only allows more flexibility with our part time staff but also allows teachers the ability to include more hands on and project based education opportunities for students. We have also added an activity period to the schedule allowing students to participate in both Key Club and Worship Team without missing class. This year our junior high student's options during activity period have expanded to include not only worship team and study hall but also tech mentoring in the elementary school. This Tech Mentoring pilot program includes 30% of our junior high population.

Two years ago, in addition to our quarterly development and training meetings, we added monthly staff meetings. These meetings allow time to work together on targeted improvement areas. Topics of training have included the new A.L.I.C.E. alert system we are adhering to and technology in the classroom. Recently the school purchased enough Chrome Books that any teacher, from kindergarten through high school, can utilize them with a 1:1 ratio. There will be time allocated for training and ideas on ways to implement the Chrome Books during staff meetings. As well, all staff members were recently trained to use the newly installed intercom system in case of an emergency scenario.

Both the elementary and high school have implemented programs to encourage reading. This area will continue to be a focus as we plan ahead. The elementary reading incentive program involves students reading after school with the incentive of grade appropriate rewards based on the amount of time spent reading. Last year incentives included a "Glad Scientist" party, a movie event, lunch with the Principal, and a field day. Parents, along with students from the junior high and high school, help the elementary teachers to coordinate these extravagant events. The high school is currently in its third year of a literature program that any student can take at any time in their schedule. The focus is classic literature and each year features a different collection of college preparatory selections. This allows a student to take the class all four years if they choose to. As we work to instill and encourage a love of reading within our students we are also taking a look at our library and what needs to be done to create an exciting space for our students. The newly formed library committee is hard at work not only updating but completely reinventing the CCS Library. The new library will open its doors to students sometime during the 2016-2017 school year.

The past several years at Country Christian have been filled with not only academic successes but also noteworthy sports accomplishments. Last year, one of our students was honored as one of the top 1% of applicants to Oregon State University. Oregon State sent a representative to CCS in order to surprise the senior in front of his peers, presenting him with an OSU sweatshirt and certificate indicating that he was being awarded a full ride scholarship. Several other seniors also won scholarships for both academic and sports

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accomplishments. We currently have 7 graduates playing sports at the collegiate level in either volleyball, basketball, baseball or track. Our girls volleyball and basketball teams are the current 1A State Champions and our boys' basketball team held the 2015 state title. The excellence shown within our sports department is an example of the teamwork and excellence that takes place both on and off the court.

The formation of an advisory panel, including parents, students, teachers and school board members, is meeting monthly to give direction to CCS by utilizing tools such as surveys and standardized test results to help develop our school improvement plans. The advisory panel is also developing a system that will allow all parents to become more involved in the improvement process at CCS. Forms will be made available both on the school website and in the school office that allow parents to bring suggestions before the school board and administration. The advisory panel will help to formulate plans to see suggestions carried out.

We have seen an increase in parental involvement over the past year in several areas including: classroom help, cafeteria and recess monitoring, advisory panel and auction committee help. Parental comments, along with student input have helped to direct the CCS school improvement plan this year. Surveys from last year indicated that parents and students felt there was a lack of consistency throughout our English department, specifically the expectations placed on students when it came to formatting papers. English teachers and administration met in August to discuss changes and training for all staff began in September; our goal being to bring excellence and consistent expectations to all of our students in the discipline of writing. We have also decided to supplement our current curriculum in order to approach vocabulary from an understanding of Greek and Latin roots. These strategies to improve the English department will become part of our formalized SIP.

As Country Christian moves forward we will continue to keep a Christ Centered education as our main focus; considering it a privilege, honor and great responsibility to educate those children placed in our care for education.

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## **Additional Information**

**Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.**

As stated in the mission statement of Country Christian School we are not only concerned with equipping our students with Christian Character but also with an excellent academic training. Teachers work together across all grade levels to insure students are receiving a complete education. High school students are able to take college preparatory classes and SAT/ACT prep is available to them. Recently, one of our high school students received a perfect score on the critical reading portion of the SAT and last year two of our students were in the 87th-93rd national percentile in reading, math, and writing. Close to 100% of CCS students opt to take either the SAT or ACT and at least 75-80% of all 9th, 10th and 11th graders choose to take the PSAT. While these statistics can drop our overall percentile, we choose to encourage all of our students to take the steps necessary for college entrance rather than looking at them as a potential test statistic. Over half of our high school students take honors courses; additionally the majority of our seniors choose advanced level mathematics and sciences through our calculus, physics, anatomy, and chemistry programs.

Leadership development opportunities include: Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, Worship Team and small group Bible leaders. The success of the Country Christian Key Club has been recognized nationally and it is not uncommon for club members to be asked to speak or make presentations at different events and community activities. For five of the twelve years Country Christian School has had a Key Club, members have been elected to International positions, including the role of International President. Considering that Key Club is the largest student run organization in the world with over 260,000 members, we are proud to have had our high school population of 50-60 students contribute so many students to these highly competitive elected positions.

Country Christian students continue to garner impressive amounts of scholarship money for academics and leadership, as well; six of our graduates are currently receiving sports scholarships. These include: men's basketball at Multnomah University, women's volleyball at Multnomah University, baseball at Corban University and track at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. We also have two students playing basketball for Clackamas Community College and another volleyball at Linfield College.

We take great pride in our students as they move forward from Country Christian into the roles the Lord has called them to. This past year we watched as our graduates went on to study pharmacology, pre-med, fire science, mechanical engineering, criminal justice, and youth ministry amongst other studies. We also witnessed as graduates from years past began careers as a nurse practitioner, financial analyst, Chemical Engineer, and an event planner, to name a few. Another completed boot camp as he works to become an army medic and still another began her studies for a Master's Degree in Global Health at the University of North Carolina. The dedicated staff at Country Christian School believe strongly that they have something to contribute to each of their students and appreciate the moments when they can celebrate in the accomplishments of their students both past and present.