

## Asking the Important Question

**A**s the parents or guardians of a Christian school student, you have made a very significant decision to enroll your child in a Christian school. Undoubtedly, you arrived at this decision because of any number of outcomes that you believe or hope will be achieved in the lives of the kids you love and acknowledge a tremendous responsibility for. But did you ask your school the important question, What do you expect to happen with my child in this school?

Those engaged in leading and providing Christian education spend a great amount of time and energy thinking through and seeking God's guidance in developing the expected student outcomes they want to achieve through the formal and informal curricular programs of their schools. These men and women are painting a target—clearly articulating what a Christian school education should accomplish and then putting in place the strategies and programs aimed at that target—simultaneously helping you train up your child in the way that he or she should go (Proverbs 22:6).

What *do* you expect to happen with your child here in this Christian school? It is often easy to simply consider a school for its academic qualities, spiritual values, great programs, or activities and fail to note how these are wed together in a climate and culture that focus on the development of a Christian or biblical worldview in your child.

Effective Christian schooling is not only about preparing students in the academic disciplines and seeing that they develop appropriate levels of proficiency in mathematics and science. Rather, it is also about teaching students how to engage in living. We want students, the product of Christian schooling, to truly understand the worth of *every* human being as created in the image of God and to consequently use integrity as they show respect for and relate appropriately with the people they meet and know. As students develop a clear understanding of God's love and value for every person, a solid foundation forms in them that enables the teaching and nurturing of appropriate attitudes and conduct on the horizontal social levels that everyone engages in each day.

The primary objective of Christian schooling is to develop students who not only successfully pursue traditional academics but also passionately pursue a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that goes beyond the assurance of forgiveness. Christian

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## What do you expect to happen with my child in this school?

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schooling should produce students who further discover and grow in an interactive relationship with God that defines *how* they live and relate with others.

You are to be commended for your decision to choose Christian schooling. You are investing in an education that will pay dividends for a lifetime. And your school will not be threatened by your asking, What do you expect to happen with my child here? Instead, the school will welcome your willingness to voice that you care.



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