

## TESTIMONIALS

### Student Testimonials

When secondary students were recently asked the question "Why do you value CCS," we received many varied responses. Here are just four of them. Please watch for more testimonials throughout the coming months from all K-12 students:

- "At CCS, one of the things I value the most is the teachers who have impacted my life. I really value teachers who set an example for their students with their walk with Christ. Sometimes this is done by taking time out of class to just talk about God. Other times it is shown by their patience with frustrating students or joy in the midst of hardship."
- "CCS has always been a safe place where I can study God's Word. I have learned a lot that I will definitely be using after I graduate. There are many things that I appreciate about CCS. One of the many things is the teachers. All of the teachers at Cypress care deeply for each one of their students. It is obvious in their interaction with each student in the classroom."
- "Not many students get to go to a school with Bible verses, Jesus' name, and prayer in the halls. I am so happy that my parents have paid for me to attend CCS. The teachers are amazing, always willing to give extra help to each student. They treat the students with respect and truly love them. You can tell that the teachers really do love their job and care about the students. I have learned the importance of hard work and dedication and how it will affect my life for college. Biblically based and strongly educated, I hope to leave CCS a 'Total Truth' kind of person. I am going to be able to defend my faith with the knowledge I have learned from CCS."
- "This school is important to me because the people here were tools God used to bring me to Him. The people and classes here help me grow stronger in my faith in a safe way. The environment is joyful. I will have great memories when I graduate."
- "What I love most about CCS is Bible class. I am positive that I can say I have received a sound biblical foundation because of CCS. Though Bible is a requirement, it has never become tedious to me in my thirteen years of



### Teaching Redemptively

I have read hundreds of books and articles on teaching and Christian education over the years. This summer I read a book that impacted me more than any other I have read recently - *Teaching Redemptively: Bringing Grace and Truth into Your Classroom* by Donovan L. Graham. Redemptive teaching means to "teach in a fashion that reflects the character of the creative-redemptive God – that is to teach in accord with God's creational ordinances and in a way that demonstrates His grace in redemption." Christian teachers in Christian

schools have been given the challenge of creating an educational process that reflects redemption, and thereby, thinking and acting like God in the educational process as well as in the educational content.

True Christian education immerses students in the grace of the gospel. In attempting to provide a true Christian education, we tend to think that if we can keep the law well enough (e.g., live up to certain educational and moral standards), we are doing things the way God wants them done. It is all too possible that students are validated (in school and at home) for their right "doing" without much concern for their "being." Persons affirmed for their outward achievement alone can live the rest of their lives in a lie, believing that their own resources are sufficient and never addressing the empty brokenness and sinfulness of their own hearts.

Christian education and teaching redemptively requires us to create an atmosphere of grace in which our students can breathe the life-giving air of the gospel. We must engage in the educational process in a way that demonstrates living the gospel, not just talking about it. If our students are to live by the gospel, they must experience it in their learning environment as well as at home. If we want our students to live the gospel after they leave school, then we must help them experience it in school and at home.

At our opening in-service this August, I challenged our employees to continually examine our personal relationships with the students, our attitudes toward the students, classroom management practices, grading and testing practices, the structure of our curriculum, and daily learning activities to see if our students are breathing the fresh air of the gospel that leads to life.

The grace we have received and now possess enables us not only to be redeemed but to act redemptively. We cannot live, or teach, redemptively except by a constant, continuous awareness and experience of God's grace that motivates us. We cannot live, or teach, redemptively unless we are daily demonstrating what God's grace is all about. Since we have experienced redemption through grace, we will live out that redemption through grace in our school.

attendance. The teachers authentically care about the spiritual well-being of their students. The Bible classes have not only taught me more about the Old Testament and the New Testament, but have also improved my critical thinking and reading skills. In turn, studying the Bible has helped me in other classes. I feel the Bible curriculum has been an extreme benefit, not only to my education, but also to my relationship to God."

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

III John 4