



Head of School Stephen Novotny with elementary and secondary students after Tribal Wars field day.

FROM THE Head of School

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On Mission

If a person or organization hopes to truly be effective, they must first clearly identify and stay focused on what they are trying to accomplish. While this truth seems so basic, human nature is such that it is easy for individuals and organizations to end up distracted or diverted from meaningful goals and purposes. When this happens, while certain destinations are reached, they are usually not the destinations desired.

The story of American Olympic athlete Matt Emmons provides a recent illustration of this truth. In the 2004 Olympic Summer Games held in Athens, Greece, Matt was the front runner for capturing the gold medal for the 50-meter three-position rifle event. With his last shot, he was poised to win the gold. Matt focused on calming himself. He expertly ensured that his firing technique was flawless. He took careful aim at the target, and fired his last and final round. His aim was dead on, the bullet flew true, and Matt hit the bull's-eye of the target he had carefully aligned in his sights. However, to his surprise, Matt scored absolutely no points for the shot. He did not win the gold medal, but instead sank to a distant 8th place in the competition. You see, Matt Emmons actually hit the wrong target. His focus was on the incorrect objective. He certainly succeeded at hitting what he was aiming for, but the truth was he aimed for the wrong thing. Matt Emmons was in lane number two, but somehow his focus shifted and he erroneously sighted in at the target in lane number three.

Similar to Matt Emmons' experience in the 2004 Olympic Games, some people work hard to reach a destination, only to find out they made a mistake in selecting that destination. Others become distracted from their original purpose. The Bible often warns us to carefully choose our path, to keep focused, and to double-check our goals and objectives as we journey through life. The Bible cautions people

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about the danger of falling asleep, of drifting away, or slowly getting off course. It is easy to forget, to drift, or to get so busy you lose direction. To help guard against these dangers, at Cypress Christian School we constantly remind each other of our mission. We tag it on our emails, we write it on our walls, we stamp it on our literature, we announce it to visitors, and we recite it in many of our internal meetings. We want to take every precaution to stay on course, because remaining on mission is very important to us. Our mission is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values.

With strong academic achievement demonstrated at all levels from kindergarten to twelfth grade, with very high college-bound SAT scores, with Christian teachers passionately pointing children to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and with the Lord Jesus Christ being honored each day in our classrooms, I am pleased to report that Cypress Christian School is clear, focused, and dedicated to its mission. We are praying for God's blessing upon our school as we continue to press forward on mission.

Stephen Novotny, Head of School