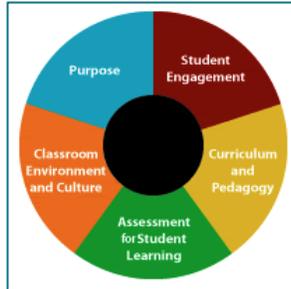


Dear RCS Family,

November 2019

Touting our teachers' amazing work fits nicely into November. This month, I tip my hat early toward Teacher Appreciation Week. Officially, it's six months away. Why now? During my preK-12th grade classroom visits since September, I am encouraged by the evidence of higher-



quality teaching methods. Student engagement surges forward, and our K-12 teachers show fabulous progress across the 5Ds, or Five Domains, instructional model—shown at left. As teachers step into their second year of 5D's training, I am thrilled by the positive shifts in practice. Teaching and learning along lines of excellence squares with our vision statement and educational-ministry aim. Thank you, teachers!

Parents, when a staff member positively impacts your child's learning, character, or spiritual life, let them know. Consider expressing your appreciation during parent-teacher conferences. The lift transferred by a kind gesture or words of gratitude rises further than you imagine.

Mark your calendars for November 14 or 15 to attend the K-12 parent-teacher conferences. Mindful that conferences can elevate anxiety, the following page features a new support:

“Pro-Parent Tips for Teacher Conferences.” Serving up practical ideas maximizes the brief time together with the teacher. So, get ready for the conferencing cycle. Lather up with dabs of Pro-Parent Tips and model good form for your child and the teacher.



When my daughters reached high school, I entertained the idea of skipping conferences altogether. Their exemplary grades and attendance raised little concern. The thinking pattern exposed a self-centered scheme to excuse myself. Notice how the broad biblical principles of sowing and reaping, Gal. 6:7, and making the most of every opportunity, Col. 4:5, shifted out of focus. My wife and I, however, attended the twice-a-year conferences for all four years.

Engaging here underscores the influential partnership between home and school. Our kids pay attention to our participation whether they say anything or not. With my daughters, the conference itself was not the game changer. Eureka! It was the post conference, or follow-up conversations. The indelible impression left by a teacher's feedback is worth discovering. Thank you in advance for elevating the parent-teacher conference as a top priority.

“Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God”

Pro Parent Tips for Teacher Conferences	
Pre Conference	<p>1. Ask your child how things are going at school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would they like you to ask their teacher? • What do they like best about school? • Are there any subjects that they are having trouble with? • If they could change anything about school what would it be? <p>2. Write down what you want to ask their teacher(s).</p>
Conference	<p>This is your chance to get detailed feedback on your child. Since most conferences are brief, stay focused. Asking about basic school policies contained in the handbook isn't a good use of time. If you have a specific question or issue that doesn't come up, be sure to ask.</p> <p>Establish rapport with the teacher. Get started on the right foot and listen to what the teacher has prepared to share. Frame your questions around that information.</p> <p>Try not to get defensive. As parents, we may only expect to hear glowing reports. Remember, a key purpose of the meeting is an assessment of how your child is doing and where your child has room to develop.</p> <p>Take a note pad and pen. Doing so offers a tangible way to show that you're actively participating.</p> <p>Provide the teacher with relevant information. Are there any significant changes at home?</p> <p>Lastly, find out about the teacher's communication preference. Let the teacher know the best way to reach you too.</p>
Post Conference	<p>Tell your child how it went. Linger, OK, really linger with all the praise-yours and the teachers. Then share any area of concern. Following up with your child powerfully models your commitment to their educational success and reinforces the importance of the parent-teacher partnership.</p> <p>Stay in touch with the teacher. Don't wait until the next conference. Reach out in a few weeks if you have an update related to the first conference.</p>



In addition to November's conferences, RCS observes Veteran's Day and celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday. Rainier Christian School's salutes and recognizes our veterans by hosting specially designed assemblies. Parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends who served in our armed forces, or current active-duty members, please accept my invitation to attend. Our students and staff members are excited to honor you and recognize your service.

Veteran's Day Assemblies

- **Wednesday, November 6**—Maple Valley Elementary. 9:00-9:35am
- **Friday, November 8**—Kent View Elementary. 8:40-9:30am
- **Friday, November 8**—Rainier Christian High School, (combined with Middle School), 10:00-11:00am



Safety Update—Communication

Recall from last month, **Flash Alert** was Rainier Christian's primary communication channel for emergencies, school closures, and delays. Since October 1st, 253 subscribers receive Flash Alert messages. If you have not created or updated a Flash Alert account, click here to register—<https://www.flashalert.net/signup/>. 100% participation remains our goal. Ensure your subscription is activated for Rainier Christian School District **and** your child's campus. If you have any questions about setting up an account, contact your school's front office. Your cooperation sharpens our leadership focus on school safety.

Stand-Up Sundays

On Sunday, **November 10th** RCS launches the first Stand-Up Sunday. Stand-Up Sundays boost awareness of Rainier Christian Schools through local churches. How does it



work? Simply wear the RCS shirt to your church service during the second Sunday of the month. That's it. If you would like to participate and receive a complementary shirt, contact Al Stever, albert.stever@rainierchristian.org. Super Al, as he is referred to in the district office, delivers the shirts to your child's campus.

If you're only interested in a fashionable shirt, they are priced at \$20—contact Super Al.

"Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God"

Rainier Christian Schools- Elementary to High School, Preschool & Childcare - Serving South King County since 1963!



In closing, the month of November—particularly Thanksgiving, reminds me to apply the brakes to busyness. Personally, reading poetry offers an effective technique to lower the RPMs and spend time reflecting on the Lord's goodness and countless blessings. Whatever circumstances arrived at our doorsteps from November 2018 through November 2019, the God of peace, and of all comfort, is worthy to be praised. May you find space and time to reflect, offer praise, and warmly enjoy family and friends this Thanksgiving.

Happy Thanksgiving

Lord, give me a thankful heart,
one that is appreciative
one that to all Your blessings
is attuned and sensitive.

Let it be a heart,
that sings its daily praise
let it be my heartfelt gratitude
that to You I earnestly raise.

Let me have a heart,
truly thankful for all things
no matter what in my life
You should choose to bring

Let my heart flow with,
the rivers of Your peace
so my appreciation to You
I may continually release.

Lord, give me a thankful heart,
one that is steadily hopeful
let it be the heart of one . . .
who is truly, forever grateful!

--Deborah Ann Belka

1 Chr. 16:34, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his love endures forever."

My best,

Bruce Kelly
President, Rainier Christian Schools

"Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God"

Rainier Christian Schools- Elementary to High School, Preschool & Childcare - Serving South King County since 1963!