



*Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God.*

Dear RCS Alumni,

May 2019

It seemed fitting to celebrate our anniversary milestone by tracing the leadership succession at each campus and the district office. Across 55 years of ministry, Rainier Christian Schools benefited from leaders serving with distinction. This month's letter is dedicated to RCS superintendents. From the archives, 1994 marks the first year for the superintendent's role. Admittedly, scant records exist for two individuals. I am asking alumni for any tips that can be followed up regarding our previous leaders.

**Mac Culver: 1994 – 1996.** The Rev. Fr. Mac Culver was ordained into the priesthood of the one holy catholic and apostolic church (Anglican) on June 16, 1997. He serves as a senior Chaplain in the Air Force Auxiliary and having also served as active duty enlisted as well as a senior command officer. Fr. Culver is currently rector of the Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church in Kennewick, Washington. Fr. Culver served as the Assistant Superintendent of Cedar Park Christian Schools for more than 13 years. Prior to that, he conceptualized and formed Rainier Christian Schools in Kent, Washington.

**LeRoy Ensign: 2000 – 2002.** No information could be located for Mr. Ensign.

**Blair Bryant: 2002 – 2012.** After leaving Rainier Christian Schools, Mr. Bryant became Superintendent of Western Christian Schools in Upland, California. Mr. Bryant returns to the Northwest to begin a principalship at Cedar Park Christian School in Mountlake Terrace, WA effective July 1, 2019.

**James White: 2012 – 2013.** No information could be located for Mr. White.

**Glenn Olson (interim): Jan – June 2014.** Since September 2014, Mr. Olson has served at Seattle's Union Gospel Mission as the Volunteer Engagement Manager. Mr. Olson held numerous roles with Rainier Christian Schools including the middle school principalship from 2009-2014.

**Tony Jaime: 2014 – 2017.** Mr. Jaime now serves as the Pastor of Ravensdale Bible Church, Ravensdale, WA.

**Bruce Kelly: 2017 – Present**

One year ago, the Parent-Teacher Fellowships from Maple Valley and Kent View Elementary took a bold step. They approached the Board to request matching funds for a new concept, Maker Space environments. Unanimously, the Board approved and funded each request.

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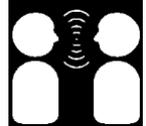
Now, the Maker Spaces are a reality. In the Maker Space, students write code, 3-D print, build circuits, program robots, and experiment with a palette of conventional and digital art tools. While the shift is a good step forward, it isn't the most important design feature. The primary goals are for students to know how the Lord wired them together, discover their gift mix, and engage in developmentally appropriate ways to address a challenge or solve an authentic problem. That approach explains how students respond to and reflect upon our Maker Space Vision Statement—derived from a Christian worldview.

The Maker Space triggered a new question. Could the program assist eighth-grade students in selecting high-school courses? Students enrolled in the Maker Space already engage with reflective exercises around God gifts and their talents. All eighth-grade students deserve a similar exploratory experience. Consequently, students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Bible class drill into the following survey/inventory tools on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

- [http://www.funchurch.com/hp\\_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/youth-gifts-test.pdf](http://www.funchurch.com/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/youth-gifts-test.pdf)
- <https://careerwise.minnstate.edu/careers/clusterSurvey>

Awareness of God's gifts is a marvelous rite of passage. There are several collateral benefits. Consider the insights as grist for subsequent family conversations— like apples of gold in settings of silver. Collectively, the takeaways help springboard RCS into a new era. For next year, our high-school registration process asks students to choose an initial Interest and Gift pathway. More details are forthcoming. However, RCHS aligns four new classes, eight internships, and its existing courses to the following Interest and Gift Pathways.

### 2019-2020 Rainier Christian High School: Interest and Gift Pathways

<p><b>Ministry, Education, and Public Service</b></p>  	<p><b>Arts and Communication</b></p>  	<p><b>STEM and Manufacturing</b></p>  	<p><b>Business and Entrepreneurship</b></p>  	<p><b>Trades and Transportation</b></p>  
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Thinking about and exploring God's purpose across career domains honors the Lord and chisels away at perceptions. Please know students are not bound to a pathway. During high school, it is not uncommon for a student to change interests. The change is likely a blessing in disguise. A student who understands their strengths before pursuing an expensive college degree or mismatched career track walks along a path of wisdom.

Traditional pathway models focus exclusively on careers and may miss what is most important. Our Christian education model equips students to cite evidence about what they're good at, recognize their talents, and know God's purpose for their gift mix, Jn.17:4, Eph. 2:10. When students grasp these ideas, they construct powerful narratives. The narratives shape identity, bolster confidence, and square with God's design for living.

Taking the helm of our Interest and Gift pathways is the next RCHS principal, Dave Rehnberg. As mentioned in my last letter, there is an opportunity to connect. Please join Mr. Rehnberg and me on **Tuesday, June 4, from 6:30-8:00pm at RCHS**. All parents, students, and staff are welcome. The informal open-house format offers a wonderful way to meet and greet the new principal. While there is more to pray about and develop, the high-school retooling initiative is coming together nicely. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

*The God who answers prayer is also the God who assists us in prayer—Esther Yue*

#### Prayer Requests and Updates

- *Grow RCS ministry to 440 students this year—*New students joined our learning community during April.
- *A community grant partner to supplement the Norcliffe Foundation grant application—*continue to pray.
- *35 Acre Parcel Sale—* After successfully securing the abrogation letter from the Department of Education, the parcel is being prepared for sale. We want the Lord to bring us the right buyer.

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## Booster Club News

The RCS Boosters develop revenue streams for our athletics and sports-of-the-mind teams. How? They sponsor the RCS Golf Tournament and Fireworks Stand. Boosters meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the district office. I am excited to relay details for their two trademark events.

Booster Club Activities: **Golf Tournament** and **Fireworks Stand**

Washington National Golf Course

Saturday  
September 21,  
2019  
1:00pm

June 27 - July 4

**Fireworks Stand** at Foley's Produce (214<sup>th</sup> SE and the Maple Valley Highway) June 27- July 4. Please spread the word to your church, neighborhood, and friends who purchase fireworks. The Booster Club's goal is \$10,000 profit. For more information, contact Athletic Director, Tim Bryant. [tim.bryant@rainierchristian.org](mailto:tim.bryant@rainierchristian.org)

**Golf Tournament** Washington National Golf Course, September 21. A big thank you is due to our tournament sponsor, Oak Harbor Freight. Get your foursome together! Click here to register: [Golf Tournament Registration Form and Payment Information](#)

If you are interested in sponsorship for your business, please follow the link, [Golf Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

## Auction Update

Please join me in thanking **Sarah Rickel**, RCS Auction Coordinator, for two extraordinary evenings. Superb! Along with dozens of volunteers, Sarah's auction committee deserve my sincere thanks for orchestrating hundreds of details along lines of excellence. A thank you is in order to the following helpers.

**Vicki Shultz**, superstar auction procurer.

**Sigrid Jones**, creating the auction presentation slideshow and catalog.

**Julie Franzen**, creating the auction display sheets.

**April Vander Pol**, assembling the auction packages.

**Leslie Massey** decorating the beautiful tables.

**Renee Bruce, Carleigh Stutzman, Jamie Cochran**, executing the class art projects.

**Kery Wong, Super Al Stever, Sigrid Jones, Dave Jones, Stacey Fokkema, and**

**Michael Ahlen**, providing credit-card transaction services.

**Emily Reed and the Maple Valley Elementary Handbell Choir**-a terrific performance!

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Our Fund-A-Need portion of the auction raised ~\$70K to purchase a third shuttle bus and new Chromebooks. Thank you to all who gave generously to grow the ministry of Rainier Christian Schools. The total contributions raised 98.5% of our \$160K goal!

As I close, there is one final invitation to share. On **May 24<sup>th</sup>**, join us for a celebration of service to honor Justin Evans' eight years at RCHS principal. The festivities include hamburgers with all the fixings, a video montage, and plenty of laughter. Please RSVP with Mrs. Burgans, [jessica.burgans@rainierchristian.org](mailto:jessica.burgans@rainierchristian.org).

My best,

*Bruce Kelly*

Bruce Kelly  
President, Rainier Christian Schools

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