



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

Dear RCS Family,

May 2019

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them,” Jesus, the Good Teacher. Our preschool and K-12 teachers mirror His approachableness. Through their labor of love, teachers nurture students and model Christ. As a former teacher, I know they cannot outwork the job. There is always more to do, give, plan, and papers to grade. Mindful of a teacher’s reality, it is fitting to hoist awareness of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6-10.

If a teacher fashioned a positive impact within your child’s life, then would you let them know? Express your timely encouragement through words of appreciation or a small gift. As we enter the last full month of school, a touch of kindness goes a very long way. Teachers, thank you for all you do and letting RCS students come to Jesus.

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.

A year later, 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.

<p>Maker Space Vision Statement</p> <p>Learn: How the Lord wired us together. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. <i>Genesis 5:1, Psalms 139</i></p> <p>Discover: How each of us is equipped with natural talents and spiritual gifts. <i>Exodus 31, 1 Corinthians 12</i></p> <p>Engage: Use our tools, talents, and gifts to address a real-world challenge. <i>Genesis 1, Ephesians 2:10</i></p>				

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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 8th grade Bible class drill into the following survey/inventory tools on May 10th.

- 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>Ministry, Education, and Public Service</p>	<p>Arts and Communication</p>	<p>STEM and Manufacturing</p>	<p>Business and Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>Trades and Transportation</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.

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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.

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.

Fireworks Stand at Foley’s Produce (214th 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. To earn volunteer hours, contact Athletic Director, Tim Bryant. 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](#)

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Climate Survey Results

During the first half of April, 65 students in grades 6-12 and 20 parents responded to the annual Climate Surveys. Last year, 117 parents submitted feedback. The surveys are reopened through May 11 to encourage greater parent participation. Access the Parent Survey Link here, <https://goo.gl/forms/1UGjMpkFsFQmk05O2> Thank you to all for taking time to share your concerns and ideas.

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!

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.

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

My best,

Bruce Kelly
President, Rainier Christian Schools

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AHERA Annual Notice: Federal compliance requires an annual notice to families. The AHERA manage plan was developed and has been submitted pursuant to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Act of 1986, Public Law 99-519; and the Environmental Protection Agency Rule: Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools, 40 CFR Part 763. Bruce Kelly serves as the designated person and completed the three-year annual inspection with AHERA inspector, Gary Brooks, for all campuses in April 2019. The summary of the inspections is available for review at the district office. RCS continues its long history of successfully mitigating all asbestos related concerns.

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