



# Christian Heritage School

## Trumbull, CT

### Barry Giller, Headmaster



## Regionalization in Connecticut

Christian Heritage School is an independent K-12 school in suburban Trumbull, CT enrolling 530 students. The school has been in existence for 32 years and is the largest Christian school in the state.

Over the past several years, many schools in Connecticut, and all of New England have closed due to low enrollment, poor leadership, and/or strained finances.

As our school viewed the landscape of Christian education in our region several smaller schools approached CHS regarding a partnership.

The Board of Directors added to the Strategic Plan an investigation of the concept of Regionalization in CT, and how CHS could take a leading role.

The Van Lunen Fellowship allowed for a direct concentration on this effort and enabled key discussions among school leaders in CT. CHS ended the year with a road map of avenues to consider if regionalization is where God leads.

## Project Results

Several pivotal discussions were had with school leaders throughout CT. Others consulted included Alan Graustein, Regional Director of ACSI, and Alan Pue, president of the Barnabas Group.

### Key Initiatives Pursued or Initiated:

- worked with two schools on their head of school searches
- currently investigating combining schools' efforts in procuring health, dental, and retirement benefits at lower rates
- exploring ways with another school to share faculty resources via internet classrooms
- consulting with a newly established committee to establish a school in Bridgeport, CT
- assisting two local schools on their pursuit of accreditation by sharing experiences and resources
- Living Word Christian Academy (West Haven, CT) closed their high school following the Spring of 2008, CHS and Living Word's sponsoring church reached an agreement on enrolling all current HS students from LWCA at CHS

## What We Have Learned

- Christian Education is vital and we need to cooperate to flourish as an successful endeavor
- Christian Education institutions impact each other directly and indirectly by their product and their practices
- As the largest and most prominent school in our region we have a responsibility to support the other Christian schools
- Survival is becoming more difficult for schools (especially in New England) and we must begin to think creatively about how to combine efforts and work together. Regionalization (both on a local and state level) is a concept that must be on the forefront of our minds and planning as we move forward.

