



Presbyterian Christian School

Hattiesburg, MS

Chip Jones, Secondary Principal



Project Summary

Growing Excellence: A Plan to Battle Stagnation

As PCS in general and the secondary campus specifically have grown rapidly in the past four years, we have “maintained” our excellent record of spiritual impact, academic achievement, and athletic and co-curricular success. However, I am concerned that we are becoming satisfied with the current level of our program, and thus in danger of stagnation in regard to the status quo.

I am taking advantage of this project to put into writing my thoughts as to how we can take the next steps toward excellence.

This project deals with three key areas of our school: facilities growth and improvement, academic achievement, and spiritual formation.



Project Results

1) Facilities Growth and Improvement:

Since we’ve only graduated ten classes so far and have been on our secondary campus for only nine years, we are still adding needed buildings. The addition of our field house, scheduled to be completed this fall, will be a huge improvement to our athletic program. The technological improvements that are being added to our academic program have the potential to revolutionize what we are doing in the classroom. The possible gift of extra acreage adjacent to our campus will greatly increase our options for the future. I feel much is being done and accomplished in this area of facilities.

2) Academic Achievement:

Of the three areas involved in this project, unfortunately I have seen fewer definitive improvements and results in the academic area than in the other two. Hopefully improvements will come over time as several parts of this plan continue to be implemented.

3) Spiritual Formation:

Results in this area are more subjective and thus harder to document. However, we have added and will be adding to our program some beneficial elements to foster spiritual growth. Persistent prayer of faithful people will make the difference here.

What We Have Learned

- When I first started this project, I was primarily focused on the academic side of school life. However, I gradually saw the benefit of broadening the scope to include these three key areas of improvement. This broadening of the scope, in retrospect, was both good and bad. It was good in that all three components help form the image of the school’s excellence in the minds of our families and community. Yet, by looking at all three areas, I did not have as much time to work on and thus see as much improvement as I desired in the initial area of my interest, our academic program.
- I am learning that making changes in an already good academic program is a process and thus is slow going. The improvements that I would like to see will not happen overnight or in just one year. However, if each year we make improvements in two or three specific areas, then over time we will begin to “turn the ship” in an even more positive direction.
- The Lord has been so faithful to our school, and I would like to see us be more and more faithful in return. Faithfulness and spiritual growth, however, are hard to quantify. Activities and numbers can never really tell what is found in the heart.

