

Measuring Our Christian Mission

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What I did:

I set out this year to answer two questions – Are we meeting our mission? And how do we know? I wanted to explore how I could measure our school’s Christian mission – to determine what were our strengths and weaknesses, and evaluate what was working and what was not – so that we could be strategic in our planning moving forward.

The three areas I focused on and the tools that we used at our school were:

1. Spiritual Climate – having an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth
 - a. *The Cultivate Project* – professional development & student surveys
2. Faith Formation – belief, discipleship, and spiritual disciplines
 - a. *REVEAL Study* – assessment & strategies for moving students forward in faith
3. Biblical Worldview – being informed by Scripture in all areas of life
 - a. *CurriculumTrak* – mapping curriculum and integrating biblical
 - b. *PEERS Testing* – worldview assessment for high school

What did I learn?

It’s easy to have a mission statement filled with Christian distinctives. Fulfilling the mission is not so easy. This project helped me keep the mission “top of mind” and in doing so, motivated me to be more strategic and intentional about what we were doing in our school. I also discovered that there are excellent assessment tools that schools can use to measure their effectiveness; in the same way we use standardized tests and other assessments to measure our academic metrics.

What Difference Did It Make?

- The professional development elements and focus on the mission helped broaden my teachers understanding of their roles as Christian educators and empowered them as mentors.
- The assessment tools helped us get a baseline to genuinely understand where we were starting so that we could create a plan to get us where we wanted to go.
- Curriculum mapping has ensured that we are integrating biblical principles at all grade levels and in all subject areas.
- PEERS testing revealed that the strategies worked. We saw a dramatic rise in scores when comparing pre- and post-testing results.