

Towards a Focused, Shared, Missional Purpose:
Renewing Our Commitment to Christian Education at Calvin Christian School
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I chose to look again at our mission and vision statements, and develop core values and a graduate profile.

We were able to successfully revise our mission statement. The other three objectives will be the focus of the 2018-2019 school year.

For our mission statement revision, I held separate faculty, board, student, parent and donor meetings.

For all but the student meetings, the following 5 questions were explored:

1. **What are the non-negotiables of our school's mission? What will not change next year, in twenty years, or forever?**
2. **Why are parents willing to make the financial commitment to send their kids to CCS? What do we have the potential to do better than anyone else?**
3. **What do (and should) we celebrate?**
4. **What are the most compelling messages in our story? How do we present our school to our community and the world?**
5. **How will we know we are accomplishing our mission?**

For the student meetings, the following 3 questions were explored:

1. **Why do your parents want you here?**
2. **What do your parents want you to become?**
3. **What should never change at Calvin.**

We were challenged to simplify our mission down to just 8 words (1 verb, 1 target, 1 outcome). We got close.

Previous Mission Statement

Calvin Christian School exists to provide an excellent Christ-centered education to children of believers. In support of parents and in cooperation with Christian churches, Calvin will provide this education from a Reformed perspective. Meaning, we help such children see God's creation through the perspective of God's Word, understand God's redemptive and providential work throughout history, and live lives of Christian service that exemplify love for God and for their neighbors.

New CCS Mission Statement

Educating God's children to boldly follow Christ for kingdom service.

**Towards a focused, shared,
missional purpose.**

The mission is the grid by which we evaluate every other element in our school. It is criterion for determining how we will spend our money, who we will hire and fire, which programs we will start and which ones we will shut down. It's the tiebreaker in every argument and the principle by which we evaluate every decision we make. The mission trumps all.

• from *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger