

# Seeking God's Plan for Our Future:

*Strategic Planning at the Verde Valley Christian School*



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**Summary:** With the help of Dave Medema and my facilitator, Carol Stensrud, we embarked upon the strategic planning process as a school. We gathered a team consisting of members of my leadership team, staff, parents, and community/business leaders to look at our school with a strengths-based approach and find the areas that we would like to focus on for the coming year(s). We also developed our mission statement and slogan through this process.

**Mission:** We are on a mission to educate students to;

- Know Christ personally
- Excel academically
- Transform communities for God's glory

**Slogan:** igniting hearts, unleashing minds

**Strategic Planning Goals:** 1.) Building Excellence, 2.) Building Community, 3.) Marketing- Telling our story

## **What I Learned:**

- The value of intentionality (Luke 14:28)
- The importance of championing the plan
- The importance of a living breathing plan (rather than a shelf-dweller)
- The importance of clarity from mission, to strategic plan, to decision making within the school, to the experience families get when they attend

## **What is Different:**

I point to the Lord's leadership through our strategic planning process as the single most important initiative in my three years of leadership at VVCS. It's hard to overestimate the value this is having in redefining who we are as school. Additionally, every effort I make to share our plan with our stakeholders and bring them on board, its value improves.

Our strategic planning process has helped create a broad culture shift towards continuous improvement in our school by consistently looking at how we can reflect the excellence of the Lord in our practice. I have found my teachers to be more excited and empowered about what the Lord is doing through us as a school through their involvement in the planning process. They now have ownership that they didn't previously have.