

**Van Lunen Fellows Program**  
***Applied School Project Summary: High School Expansion***

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### **Introduction**

When I applied for the Van Lunen Program, my heart had an ambitious dream that I wanted to explore more and to reflect on. For my applied school project, my focus would be to develop a feasibility and implementation plan for starting a high school for Ann Arbor Christian School, which currently ends at Grade 8.

### **Shaping a tangible and compelling vision**

As I worked, the focus of my attention centered on crafting a clear vision for a high school and being able to answer the simple but profound question: Why does Ann Arbor Christian School need to expand into a high school? Why should this happen?

As emphasized by my work with Zach Clark's coaching services, a clear, bold, and compelling vision is the prerequisite for all the pieces that come afterwards. The vision shapes and determines everything else that will make the high school a reality. In addition, I realized that people needed a coherent and tangible vision that they could wrap their minds, hearts, and prayers around. That vision can then be shared for fine-tuning. Once the vision is clear, then the work of sharing, feasibility, logistics, and planning can begin.

### **Why We Should Do This | Why We Need to Do This**

Imagine a school environment that understands the unique and significant challenges and developmental needs of high school adolescents, where the Good News of Jesus Christ permeate their navigation of those four crucial years of life, and that helps prepare them to take their faith into college and beyond. Furthermore:

- It would be the natural and logical extension of our 25 year-old mission.
- Families are actively seeking a Christian high school alternative.
- We need to produce new generations of Daniels to be leaders in our world.

### **What would it look like**

Documents were generated to outline: a profile of a graduate, size of the school, structure of course offerings, admissions policies, facilities needs, and personnel needs.

### **Timeline**

- Two years: Gather financial support, identify location, map out programs
- Fall 20XX: Open doors to grades 9-10
- Fall 20XY: Open doors to grades 9-11
- Fall 20XZ: Open doors to grade 9-12

### **Next Steps**

- Continue discussing this vision with the Board and determining our commitment to it
- Organize a prayer group for the high school
- Actively engage with needed consultants (e.g., John Cissel) to refine vision and define steps
- Stabilize the school's current financial situation, primarily by strengthening enrollment and eliminating our mortgage
- When ready, begin sharing the high school vision with the broader AACCS community and supporters
- Create any needed documentation (e.g., admissions policies, curriculum guide)
- Identify and gather a small group of individuals who will provide the initial financial push to make this a reality
- Engage with CSI and a few key schools for advice and counsel
- Engage with a few key churches for support and prayer