



August 2017

## ***Strategic Planning: Building Upon Our Vision and Mission***

Dear Prince Families:

Once a month you can expect a letter from me addressing a topic germane to our PreK-12 community, as well as articles every other month from our dean, principals, athletic and fine arts directors. The purpose of these letters and articles is to share topics and issues relative to your *investment* in a Christian education, thereby strengthening the bond between home and school. I hope this correspondence is both educational and encouraging as we seek to partner with you in raising and educating children through a biblical lens within a post-modern world. This leads me to the topic I would like to address with you this month as we begin this new and exciting school year: Strategic Planning.



Strategic plans in schools are legion and traditionally involve an elaborate process designed to define school priorities, analyze critical areas, provide tools for monitoring progress, and to build momentum. Too often school communities labor for months over the careful selection of words to define important objectives and goals only to have them overshadowed (and sometimes even forgotten) as the pressing day-to-day schedules of school operations consume the precious and finite commodity of time. We must not, and will

---

***“The primary purpose for the Strategic Plan is to outline our goals and objectives for the next five years.”***

---

not, allow that to happen in our process of strategic planning and execution here at Prince.

Last year our school achieved a first: accreditation by the rigorous process required by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). In fact, at the time of our accreditation last March, we were only the second school accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) from Virginia to Florida to have successfully completed the rigorous SAIS accreditation process. The scope of our accreditation self-study titled *Refining the PreK-12 Christian Education Model Built on a Foundation of Discipleship While Pursuing Excellence in Scholastics, the Arts, and Athletics in a Post-Modern World* was carefully chosen to enable us to use it as the foundation for our Strategic Plan, which will be completed by this December. The primary purpose for the Strategic Plan is to outline our goals and objectives for the next five years, which must be built upon clearly defined vision and mission statements. These statements, which were updated in preparation for our reaccreditation process, were the product of the collective work by the board of trustees, parents, faculty, and administrators, and you can see them prominently displayed throughout our campus.

As we begin this new school year, it is appropriate that we review our school’s mission and vision statements to help guard against “mission drift,” which has

charted new courses in so many schools, undergraduate colleges and universities in particular, resulting in destinations far from their founders' vision. Our vision and mission statements clearly articulate we are a covenant school that seeks to partner with parents who are Christ followers who desire to have their children educated in an environment that teaches truth from an unchanging standard – God's word.

### **Mission Statement**

“To partner with Christian families to provide scripturally based discipleship while pursuing excellence in academics, fine arts, and athletics from a biblical worldview.”

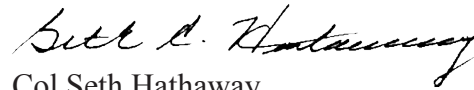
### **Vision Statement**

“Guided by God's Word as our foundation, we aspire to be the preferred choice for Christian families in the greater Athens area by providing a premier college preparatory education while discipling students to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Our published standardized test scores, the list of competitive colleges and universities our students have earned acceptance to, our championship athletic teams, and Shuler Award winning fine arts program

are impressive – but they speak to our temporal achievements and are only the means to an end; the end itself is a personal relationship with Christ. In Matthew 6:33 God reminds us, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” Thank you for investing in a Christ-centered education as we yoke with you and your church to educate, love, and nurture your child during this brief, impressionable window of youth.

Warm regards and in His service,



Col Seth Hathaway

Head of School

Twitter: @PACS\_Head

Recent Letters

[It's Not What You Know; It's Who You Know](#)

[Embracing Change While Remaining Christ Centered](#)

[Education Constitutionalism and the Family School](#)

[Partnership](#)