



February, 2016



## ***Strategic Planning: Preparing Millennial and Generation Z Students for Eternity***

Christian parents in America today have many challenges including a constant presence of psychological theory born out of postmodernism from a secular, mainstream perspective. As parents investing in a distinctly Christian education, you are fulfilling one of your primary mandates to “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4, NIV) by placing them in an educational setting that *welcomes* God’s presence in the classroom. Students today are more knowledgeable than any time in our nation’s history, but are they wiser? What is the definition of wisdom in a world of “relative” morality?

As a dedicated faculty and staff, we remain committed to deepening our understanding of the complexity of American’s worldview struggle and the way it is perceived by our school community. Our Millennial and Generation Z students, birth years 1981–2000 and 2001 to present, respectively, perceive the world as a 24/7 place where they



***“As parents and teachers we must think strategically and not only ask ourselves where will our children be five years from now, but where will they be one hundred years from now.”***

acquire all their information and most their socialization from the internet. Since knowledge is now accessible by everyone, students have become information managers, engaging at heightened intellectual and social spectrums, and as their teachers, we must continue to challenge them at that level. To meet their insatiable appetites for content, coupled with their strong views and assertiveness fostered by engaged, nurturing parents, we must, as Christian educators, emphasize the view of Christian teaching as a source of knowledge and not merely true belief accepted solely on blind faith.

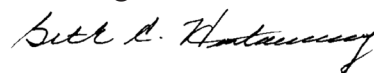
Statistically speaking, today's students in college preparatory environments like Prince have set higher academic expectations for themselves compared to their Generation X parents. It is incumbent for us, as your partnering school, to ensure that our scholastic rigor and biblical integration traverse an intellectual spectrum that meets your student's needs. That need will look different depending on the cognitive and spiritual maturity of the student. Grade level notwithstanding, it is critical that our lessons are not centered on one dimensional thinking or rote spirituality; in the case of the latter, we must be cautious to guard against the "comforts" of spirituality and remain committed to teaching an authentic faith in Jesus Christ.

A Christ centered education promotes humble servant leaders, and the frequent "sir" and "ma'am" I hear from students in our hallways is a refreshing change from the posturing, aggressive, surly attitude I have experienced by young people in school cultures where no standards for moral absolutes exist. While our family-school commu-

nity is far from perfect, we have the benefit of a fixed standard for morality gleaned from biblical truths that, like Adam and Eve, define what happens when we step outside the boundaries God has set for us.

The vision, wisdom, and discipline shown in building our school's debt free campus, and quality of the Christian educators that fill her ranks are a testament to God's blessings. But despite the beauty of the physical campus and the learning facilitated by the skilled hands of teachers, God teaches us that the things of this world will eventually turn to dust (Eccles. 3:20, NIV). So as we appreciate the classrooms, faculty and staff, integrated technology, athletic complex, et al, we must consider what are we are really investing in. We must ask ourselves not only where will our children be five years from now, but where will they be one hundred years from now. Heading into the closing months of school, as a faculty and staff we will remain dedicated to the objective of delivering scholastic content with passion and enthusiasm while staying focused on the strategic goal of preparing students for eternity by encouraging a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior.

Warm regards and in His service,



Col Seth Hathaway

Head of School

Twitter: @PACS\_Head