

PRINCE Leadership MONTHLY

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Partnering with Parents

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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.*

If you have spent any time in the school building, and since you are a Prince parent I know you have, our mission statement is hard to miss. It is posted on large signs all over the school; it is on our website and it is talked about at just about every parent gathering we have. Our mission statement is a guiding principle for administration as we look to move this school in the direction that God has for it. However, the section of the mission statement that I would like to focus on is the first five words, "To partner with Christian families..." These first five words of the PACS mission statement tells a current and prospective parent exactly the kind of school we believe God has called and designed us to be.



First, the first five words of the mission statement clearly lays out that we are a Covenant school. We want to yoke ourselves with families that love the Lord and want their kids to be brought up and taught by likeminded teachers, coaches, and administrators. Do we all come to the exact same conclusion on every matter? No, and you don't have to be a Christ follower for any longer

than a day to know we can disagree. However, we can all agree that Christ and the Word of God needs to be at the center of everything we do in the classroom, the athletic arena, and on stage.

Second, and where I want to spend a majority of my time, is the idea of partnering with Christian families. The group of teachers and administrators that helped create the PACS mission statement a number of years back were very intentional in wanting to use the word partnering. To start, we believe the Bible is clear that the discipleship of a child is the primary responsibility of the parents. In Deuteronomy 6: 6-7 Moses writes, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." If we look to the New Testament we can find in Ephesians 6:4 that Paul writes, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." If you have the chance to visit with me in my office you will notice a 3' X 4' wooden sign that has Proverbs 22:6 written on it and it says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." As a Christian school we are not looking to take the responsibility from you as parents in the discipleship of your children. We believe it to be an honor and privilege to be able to walk alongside you and your children in their discipleship and education. The last thing we want as a school is for a parent to drop their student off in carline at 8:00AM and then pick them up after school with no contact or interaction with teachers, coaches, and administrators. Studies show that parents that are involved with their child's education have children that: perform better in the classroom; attend school more regularly; go on to college more frequently; have fewer behavior write-ups; have deeper and more meaningful friendships; and have better child/parent relationships.

In conclusion, Prince's intentional approach to partner with parents has two significant purposes: 1. We believe that it is biblical for parents to take on the primary role of discipleship for their children and Prince is honored to walk alongside any parent that would like that support. 2. An involved parent tends to lead to a student that is more engaged in their education and allows them to reach their full potential spiritually, academically, and socially. Having been a product of public education and having worked in public education for a handful of years before transitioning into Christian education, I can tell you that I am grateful to work in an educational environment with likeminded parents.