

# VISION 2025



## Surrey Christian School Strategic Plan

## Introduction

Surrey. Christian. School. We are a school that follows Jesus and we are located in Surrey. That means we need to constantly discern how our learning (school) can model the servant way of Jesus (Christian) in this small corner of God's garden of delights (Surrey). We want our students to *become fully alive in God's story* through their *engagement with God's world*. This will require strengthening relationships with other community organizations and creatively seeking opportunities for learning to take place in real ways by stepping outside of the walls of the classroom or inviting others in. We boldly strive to *engage God's world in the servant way of Jesus*.

The Surrey Christian School leadership (senior administrators and board members) thank the parents, staff members, students, and community members who have contributed insights into the ongoing work of the Strategic Plan. Over fifty years ago, Surrey Christian School was founded by a group of people who felt passionately convicted to provide a place where children could be educated in the belief that *everything* falls under the Lordship of Christ. We are immensely grateful for that heritage of faith, which has allowed us to continue to pursue the dream that Surrey Christian School will form students into committed and passionate followers of Jesus who, in their daily lives, will pursue *wholeness and engage God's world in the servant way of Jesus*. With that beautiful heritage shaping us and this powerful mission shining brightly before us, we press on to make our vision a reality; that every student will become *fully alive in God's story*. This strategic plan – VISION 2025 – is how we hope to do that.

*Note: Input for the creation of this document was gathered from SCS town hall and AGM meetings, joint staff/board meetings, board meetings, staff meetings, parent survey, student leadership input, Cardus Education Survey 2018, BC Bulletin, a review of current strategic initiatives from other faith-based organizations, and conversations with community leaders (Kwantlen First Nations, Regent College, Trinity Western University, and the City of Surrey).*

## Mission and Vision

Our Mission:

Educating for wholeness by engaging God's world in the servant way of Jesus

Our Vision:

Becoming fully alive in God's story



## History Informs Future

In September 1965 almost 80 students started school at Fraser Valley Christian High School. In September 2019 we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first graduating class. Some of earliest alumni now have children serving on our board and committees and as staff members, while others have grandchildren in our school. The bold vision that started Christian education in Surrey continues to flourish today.

Separate from Fraser Valley Christian High School, Surrey Christian School opened as a K-7 school in 1978 with 72 students in a rented space. After rapid growth, we moved into our own brand new building on 160<sup>th</sup> street in 1981. A middle campus was built in 1997 and grade 8 was added.

In 2010 Surrey Christian School and Fraser Valley Christian High School merged into one institution now collectively called Surrey Christian School.

Finally, in January 2018 Cloverdale Christian School (formerly Zion Lutheran School), a PreK-7 school founded in 1959 by Zion Lutheran Church, merged into Surrey Christian School. Currently Surrey Christian School serves 1400 students PreK-12 with 3 early learning centers, 2 elementary campuses, and 1 secondary campus.

This story of Surrey Christian School is a story of sacrifice, blessing, hard work, commitment, and the love of Jesus. Surrey Christian School looks to the future with hope and excitement for what God has in store, seeking to build upon our rich history and the continued calling to provide Christian education that builds the Kingdom of God! This Strategic Plan is one more step in our response to God's faithfulness to us.

## Our Hoped-for Identity

At Surrey Christian, we strive to be clear about our identity – it lies in our followership of Jesus Christ. What does that look like? We strive to form our students into followers of Jesus that will exhibit the following \*habits of living in their lives. We integrate our faith and learning by weaving these habits throughout our curriculum. We intentionally design learning experiences that are formational in this regard. It is our hope that our students will grow into people who are *fully alive in God's story* as people who exhibit the following:

- 1) God–Worshipping: Students understand that worshipping God is about celebrating who God is, what God has done and is doing, and what God has created. Students see worship as a way of life.
- 2) Idolatry–Discerning: Students will understand that when other “things” are more important to us than our relationship with God, they become idols. Students will be challenged to identify, understand and discern the idols of our time and to then respond prophetically.
- 3) Earth–Keeping: Students will respond to God’s call to be stewards of all of creation.
- 4) Beauty–Creating: Students will celebrate God as the #1 CREATOR and understand that when we create things, we show that we are made in God’s image. We offer praise to God by creating beautiful things. Our creativity makes God smile!
- 5) Justice–Seeking: Students will act as agents of change by identifying and responding to injustices.
- 6) Creation–Enjoying: Students will celebrate God’s beautiful creation.
- 7) Servant–Working: Students will work actively to heal brokenness and bring joy.
- 8) Community–Building: Students will be active pursuers and builders of communal shalom.
- 9) Image–Reflecting: Students bear the image of God in their daily lives. All humans are image reflectors.
- 10) Order–Discovering: Students will find harmony and order in God’s creation.

*\*as adopted from the Teaching for Transformation (TfT) Curriculum model*

## Going Forward – Our Focus

Through a robust process of gathering input Surrey Christian School has identified the following strategic priorities:

- 1) Christian Focus
- 2) Learning and Programs (curricular and co-curricular)
- 3) Staff Development and Care
- 4) Finance and Facilities
- 5) Community Engagement
- 6) Governance

These six areas will receive the majority of our attention over the next five years as we seek to make significant improvements outlined in the following pages. We covet your prayers as we look to fulfill our robust mission statement through a focus in these areas.

### 1) **CHRISTIAN FOCUS – learning to follow Jesus in all areas of life**

As a Christian community we believe human flourishing is most profoundly achieved through relationship with Jesus Christ and we strive to ensure all our budget, program, short term and long-term decisions align with that belief. It is our hope that our students will be grounded in the Story of God to be able to walk in the world in the Kingdom way of Jesus. We hope to foster Christian growth within the student body and the greater SCS community. We strive to confidently and compassionately communicate our centeredness in Christ, both within the SCS community and externally to the city of Surrey and as far away as our international sister schools.

#### Actions

- a) More explicitly express our desire to foster the spiritual formation of our students and staff.
- b) Continue to develop formational learning experiences that are explicitly tied to the mission and vision of SCS.
- c) Explicitly work to develop a school tone that reflects the Biblical Throughlines (TfT) we have adopted – enabling students to treat each other with dignity and kindness.

- d) Create a PreK – 12 chapel program (scope and sequence).
- e) Explore the addition of a chaplain position for the system that would foster student and staff well-being, and individual and corporate spiritual direction.
- f) More explicitly communicate the belief that human flourishing is most profoundly achieved through relationship with Jesus Christ
- g) Seek to improve Biblical literacy with our students with a particular focus on the application of The Story to their individual lives and their engagement with God's world.
- h) Improve parental engagement with our core belief document: *Our World Belongs to God*.

## 2) **LEARNING AND PROGRAMS (curricular and co-curricular) – enriching student experiences and intentionally forming students in the Kingdom**

Surrey Christian School's deep desire in all our programming is to ensure that everything we do is motivated by the pursuit of our mission and vision (see page 2). As we seek to grow, enhance, add, and update programs, we are mindful that all of what we do must be in direct alignment with our mission statement. The following actions have been identified as areas that will enable us to move towards fulfilling our mission and form students as followers of Jesus.

### **Actions:**

- a) Explore the creation of a consistent PreK-12 languages program.
- b) Grow PreK-12 focus on outdoor and creation care education.
- c) Increase cross campus opportunities for student/teacher collaboration
- d) In the area of Educational Support Services move towards increasing support for all students.
- e) Explore the possibility of moving from contracting professional ESS services to hiring in house professionals (OT, Educational Psychologist, etc.)
- f) More specifically tie assessment and communication of learning to formational learning experiences.
- g) Initiate a robotics program.

- h) Intercultural Learning Trip opportunities that are increasingly tied directly to curriculum and programs (fieldwork, formational learning experiences) and more financially accessible to students.
- i) Provide and promote opportunities and structures for students to extend learning beyond the classroom.

### **3) STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND CARE – challenging, supporting and growing strength**

The fulfillment of our mission statement at Surrey Christian is the responsibility of everyone in the community; however, we recognize that a much greater weight of that responsibility lies on our faculty and staff. To that end we seek to ensure we attract the best possible people whose understanding and practice of human flourishing fits most closely with the mission of SCS. We seek to care for our current faculty and staff so that they might feel honoured by their current service and inspired to continue to grow their capacity to serve effectively. We want them to see their role at SCS as a vocation that is deeply fulfilling. The following actions are movement in that direction:

#### **Actions**

- a) Explore movement towards a PreK-12 increase in teacher preparation time.
- b) Decrease the compensation gap between public schools and SCS.
- c) Attract, retain and train high quality staff and faculty.
- d) Explore appropriate opportunities for parent involvement that might support the work of teachers.
- e) Implement a staff growth/care/review process that achieves a strong measure of both support and accountability (coaching).
- f) Nurture a professional culture that promotes rigor, self-reflection, growth, innovation, and self/collegial care.
- g) Develop internal leadership capacity.



#### 4) **FINANCE AND FACILITIES – Trusting a God of Abundance in making space for human flourishing**

We have been blessed with the land and facilities that previous generations had the foresight to prepare for us. In gratitude we seek to ensure we exercise stewardship over our current assets while at the same time positioning ourselves to be able to respond faithfully to new opportunities of growth and improvement that help us fulfill our mission. Based on a model of sustainable operations, our hope is to grow our capacity to improve our facilities as program and enrolment needs change.

##### Actions

- a) Market and grow the endowment fund.
- b) Move towards sustainable budgeting based primarily on domestic enrolment.
- c) Grow and strengthen donor base.
- d) Continue to develop and implement fundraising initiatives to facilitate the future capital needs of the school.
- e) Complete Fleetwood elementary building project and campus.
- f) Create more student break-out learning spaces (maker spaces, sensory rooms, etc.).
- g) Continue transition to more flexible furniture.
- h) Explore expansion of shop facility at Secondary Campus to enable greater access for trades learning.
- i) Continue to invest in technology to enhance learning.
- j) Explore creation of outdoor learning/recreation spaces (ropes courses/climbing wall/etc.)
- k) Upgrade Cloverdale Campus facilities to accommodate growth and changing educational needs.

#### 5) **ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY – reaching out – strengthening within**

Surrey is a large and growing community and Surrey Christian has the tremendous opportunity to engage well in that community. We seek to develop meaningful relationships with diverse peoples' groups primarily in Surrey but also in the global community. We want to share our vision for human flourishing as grounded in Jesus and we want to learn from diverse

others what wholeness looks like. This is the engagement of God's world in the servant way of Jesus. We believe it will better enable our students to become more fully alive in God's story.

## Actions

### External

- a) Strengthen and extend First Peoples' relationships.
- b) Explore creation of First Peoples' liaison/support staff position.
- c) Continue to expand our services to the community, partner with businesses, and impact the neighborhood.
- d) Continue to strengthen community and strategic connections with other schools and organizations.
- e) Faithfully engage difficult topics with our local community.
- f) Find a way for SCS students to have a voice in political forum; increase student awareness of public office and the duty/call to work for the common (public) good in their voting, engagement, and understanding of what it means to walk as a Christian in their community.
- g) Continue to creatively explore the potential of satellite campuses.
- h) Increase alumni engagement in the life of the school.
- i) Develop new ways to tell the story of SCS in the broader Surrey community.

### Internal

- j) Increase our parent engagement in the vision of SCS and the formational learning experiences that work to achieve the vision
- k) Incorporate the use of new technologies to communicate to various SCS constituencies.

## 6) GOVERNANCE – faithfully overseeing the implementation of the vision

The Leadership team (board and Senior administrators) are tasked with ensuring SCS is fulfilling its mission in its day to day practices. They are also tasked with ensuring the mission of SCS is fulfilled in the future, long after their term of service has ended. We seek to strengthen the governance of SCS to ensure its mission achievement long into the future.

**Actions:**

- a) Promoting society membership amongst SCS stakeholders
- b) Providing ongoing board training in best practices for non-profit governance
- c) Maintaining a practice of ongoing review of short- and long-term planning of the school
- d) Ensuring policies and practices are in place to most effectively fulfill the mission and vision of SCS

