

VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent



December, 2008

Dear VCS Community,

As we approach the Christmas break, I am reflecting upon my first four months serving the schools, and I am also looking to the future. What a blessing to be called to this ministry. It was wonderful meeting the parents, students and teachers at various venues. I was immediately impressed with the enthusiasm, passion and talent I found everywhere I looked. I thank all of you for the warm welcome you extended me.

Conversations with numerous parents throughout the semester have made me aware of a variety of important issues. I took the opportunity to address these issues in an open forum I called "An Evening with the Superintendent." I found the give and take at the meeting to be healthy and productive. I want to extend my personal thanks to all of you who participated and spoke from your hearts about what you love about VCS and about what you'd like to see change. I look forward to another "Evening with the Superintendent" in the Spring.

Now it's time to move forward on important strategic initiatives as a team. I am currently developing a parent survey to establish the priorities you have for your children. This is part of a fact-finding mission that will enable us to benchmark desired outcomes for each of the 5 Pillars: Academic Excellence, Spiritual Development, Servant Leadership, Athletic Distinction and Creative Expression. The resulting information will enable me to make data driven decisions.

We can't do everything at once, but there are several key initiatives that we can start working on right away. One is the development of an Academic Excellence Task-force that will identify and address all areas of teaching and learning. Exceptional academics that meet the needs of all students is of paramount importance, so the work of this task-force must be a central endeavor for all of us.

Another critical initiative is Development. No school can be strictly tuition driven, and we are no different. We must find multiple revenue streams to build the type of school we envision for the future. I will lead a team to create and implement a comprehensive development plan that will leave no stone unturned.

Building strategic alliances is a third initiative that merits immediate attention. There are multiple opportunities in our immediate area to partner with colleges, universities, corporations and non-profits. I'll be calling upon the parents to facilitate relationships via their own networks to move this initiative forward.

I am also analyzing the best approach to forming an advisory council to the Superintendent. Membership at VCC will not be required for this group. Please stay tuned for further developments.

Please let me know what efforts you may be interested in joining. I seek a true partnership between parents, teachers and administration that builds ownership, consensus and optimal results.

Underlying all of these efforts is the spiritual component that makes us a Christian school system. I am carefully analyzing all elements that foster spiritual development, and I will consider the best ways to strengthen this emphasis. We must keep Christ at the center of all we do, and we must help each student develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Without this, nothing else matters.

It's my intention to honor our past, while pressing forward to our future. Change involves risk and effort, but it's the only way to advance. As the long time former president of Harvard University, James B. Conant, once said, "Behold the tortoise, he only makes progress when his neck is outstretched." I ask that we all stretch ourselves as we work hand in hand to build the kind of future we want for our children at Valley Christian Schools.

May the Lord Jesus bless you all, and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

John G. Moran

Pastor John G. Moran, M.Ed.
Superintendent
Valley Christian Schools