



Damascus Christian School, our mission, and you

Damascus Christian School's mission is to assist Christian parents in the Biblical training of their children spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically to help prepare them to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ to God's glory and the building of His Kingdom.

For the next several issues of *ChalkMarks*, we will be parsing our mission statement as to what it looks like in relationship to our parents and the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical development of their children. We will examine each element of the statement to break down and clarify exactly what it is we seek to accomplish for each family at Damascus Christian.

Our mission statement has evolved over the years to its present wording but the heart and intent has always been the same – to support and stand with our parents as they seek to teach, model, and instill Biblical principles and values in the inner being of their children. For thirty-four years, D.C.S. has sought "...to assist Christian parents in the Biblical training of their children..."

Partnering with our parents is one of the strong distinctives of DCS. Our mission extends far beyond simply providing daily Bible instruction and weekly chapels, although we do that. It reaches beyond presenting a strong academic program, although that too is present. It goes beyond offering a variety of opportunities for students to grow socially, emotionally, and physically, although each of those is a vital element of the total school program. Our heart's desire is to partner with parents in all of these areas to see, over the course of the years, development and transformation in the heart and practice of each child. In short, DCS is about the task of assisting parents in helping their children develop a Biblical world view, so vital and necessary for a rich, satisfying, purposeful life.

We all understand that we are only passing through this world. We are sojourners and pilgrims on this planet; this is not our home. Life is preparation for eternity with no second chances. Scripture addresses this by reminding parents to love the Lord and train their children in the same (Deut. 6:4-7). In John 15, Jesus reminds us that we must stay connected to Him in order to accomplish anything of

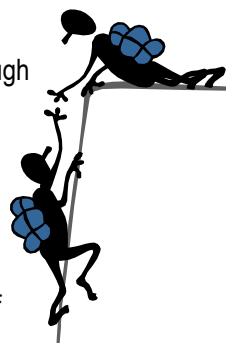
lasting value. Paul said that we must walk in the Spirit in order to produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
Galatians 5:22 CrossDaily.com

gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). He warns us not to allow the world to squeeze us into its mold (Rom. 12:2) and not to let anyone lead us astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding non-sense (Col. 2:8). All of this happens through consistent, purposeful and practical training over a period of time.

It is the process - the daily, weekly, monthly, yearly teaching with one voice and one focus – to help a child become a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. That is what Damascus Christian School seeks to do. Partnering with parents for the nurturing and transformation of their children. That comes only from the unified voice of home, church, and school all saying and practicing the same core values. That is the "assisting" aspect of our mission statement.



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Snow make-up days! Re-enrollment packet coming

Due to missing 4-1/2 days of school because of snow, we will have 2 make-up days - Monday, January 19th (MLK Day) and Monday, February 16th (Presidents' Day). We will extend the first semester to end on Friday, January 23rd, which will be a half day.

Friday, January 16th, will be a full day of school.



Friday, January 30th, re-enrollment packets will be mailed to our current school families. The purpose of re-enrollment is two-fold – it guarantees a place for your children for the 2009-2010 school year and it helps us know what spots we have for new applicants. The re-enrollment fee is applied to next year's tuition. The deadline for returning the form is Friday, February 13th.



Cheer clinic coming soon!



The DCS cheerleaders will be hosting their annual Cheer Clinic on Saturday, January 31st. Participants will enjoy a morning of learning cheers, jumps, and a halftime routine that they will be able to perform at a varsity basketball game. This year's clinic will be open to preschool and elementary boys and girls and grades 6-8 girls. More information and registration sheets will be coming home with your student this week. Hope to see your children at the Cheer Clinic. Go Eagles!



Welcome to the family!

We have a new family with two students at DCS, **Noah T.**, second grade and his sister **Audrey** in the fifth grade. Please add **Brian** and **MaryBeth Davis** to your school directory.

DCC/DCS Blood Drive

On Thursday, January 15th, from 2-7PM, Damascus Community Church and Damascus Christian School is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive. If you would like to donate blood please

call the Red Cross at (503) 528-5576 to schedule a time. Thanks!



ChalkMarks reminder

As of January 7, 2009, no longer are we distributing class-wide hard copies of ChalkMarks to go home. ChalkMarks can be accessed through our website,

www.damascuschristianschool.org.

