

# THE ANNUAL REPORT

FROM DR. CY SMITH AND  
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2020 at Mansfield Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to provide a portrait of the progress of the school, fortify financial transparency, and express appreciation for the financial investment that so many patrons make to provide exceptional Christian schooling.

What an incredible time to be in education. I never could have imagined a season when schools would be forced to close indefinitely, teachers would be speaking from their kitchen tables to students clad in pajamas while holding their pets, and leaders would spend the summer trying to determine what schooling would look like for the fall. Suddenly, education emerged as the central issue of our day, and parents were back to square one it seemed.

In every field and organization, leaders are rapidly coming to the awareness that the world in front of us is radically different from what is behind us. Since we were in uncharted territory, our theme for the year was **True North: Follow Christ, Lead the Way**. We must know how to establish TRUE NORTH, which is a single reference point that we can rely on regardless of the circumstances or challenges.

Grounded in Christ, the only true reference point, our theme was developed from one of the **Expected Student Outcomes** that we have for students upon graduation: We expect our students to develop a

Biblical worldview that will help them share and defend their faith, and enable them to make wise choices in life. It is our conviction that what you learn in school and how you have been trained will determine how you see the world, and this worldview must have Christ as the lens in order to lead to true wisdom and understanding.

The initiatives and achievements of 2020 were influenced by the school's determination to both **lead the way as a school and train our students to lead our Christian faith**. We are committed to getting better every year and this year is no exception. We are introducing new programs, new teachers and planning for the future.

The Annual Report highlights the impact we are making at MCS in four areas of the school's strategic plan for continuous improvement: *Faith Formation, Academic Excellence, Financial Strength, and Advancement of Mission*.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Jason Guilliams - **President**  
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## FAITH FORMATION

As we focus on the spiritual markers of the Student Discipleship Plan at the elementary levels (**Respect, Wisdom, and Grace**), students are responding powerfully to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

**W**e have witnessed 23 children in grades 1-3 accept Christ in 2020! Of those students, 17 of them prayed to receive Christ at MCS (chapel or classroom) and six of them prayed with their parents at home and shared the information with their teachers the following day. Eight of the 23 students were in their first year on campus at MCS. This is tremendous evidence of the spiritual formation process that can take place in the life of a child when the home, church, and school are working together toward the same goal.

Daily discipleship groups in the secondary (7-12) pursued the theme taken from John 3:30, He must increase. I must decrease. Peer and teacher relationships continue to be the backbone of this experience as students work through Bible studies together and

engage with adults regarding the messages that hold meaning for their lives. Secondary discipleship is centered on awareness and discernment of God's purpose for our lives by focusing on **Trust** in the junior high and **Perspective** in high school.

In keeping with our mission to assist families and to help provide them with the resources needed to have an impact for Christ, the guidance department continued the parenting series entitled, **Critical Conversations**. Workshops for parenting the internet generation concluded in 2020 and a new focus on mental and emotional health begins in 2021. Our students and their families have not been immune to the stresses and concerns of the pandemic season. A biblical response to the mental and emotional issues faced by our families at this time will be an important focus of our critical conversations moving forward.

To further address new social and emotional concerns that have surfaced with the dynamics of COVID-19, MCS introduced the position of a **part-time guidance counselor** in the elementary grades for the fall of 2020. Fourth grade

teacher, Mrs. Ally Hostetler, was hired for the position as she completes her Master's Degree in School Counseling from Liberty University. Primary functions of this role include: identification of and counsel for student social, emotional, and mental health issues, assisting families to find appropriate resources, supporting students and families in times of transition, heightened stress and critical change, and collaboration with teachers for support services and student success.

Our hearts were united as a school family this year as we grieved the passing of senior Kaitlyn Kochheiser, whose battle with cancer ended in January. We shared in the grief experienced by parents, Steve and Kathy Kochheiser, and we struggled to cope with the realities of our sin-cursed world. At the same time, We rejoiced together knowing that because Kaitlyn knew Christ as her Savior the sting of death has no victory; she is fully alive for eternity and we will see her again (I Corinthians 15:54-55). These are moments our school family will not forget.





**F**rom the outset of the pandemic, MCS made it clear that we intended to do more than simply survive academically. Throughout this season, the Board and leadership team remained committed to a culture of continuous improvement. When the Governor forced schools to begin online instruction from home last March, it took our personnel one day to launch a completely new online teaching platform that was ahead of our peers. Thanks to our STEM initiative started three years prior and financed by the successful Annual Fund, the technology was in place and both our teachers and students performed admirably under extraordinary circumstances. We crafted a balanced **restart plan** in the fall of 2020 that emphasized the need to return to school full-time, every day, with students who were healthy and ready to learn.

To illustrate this commitment to academic gains, MCS introduced a new program this year. A new **Media Production Department** was created in 2020 with purposes twofold. First, the broad elements of media production as coursework better address the career interests of students. Students are now provided with training in video production, journalism, marketing, public relations, media ethics, and event planning. Students will develop the relevant performance and production skills needed for a successful career in the ever-changing media industry. Academically, media production functions as an extension of our STEM program with an emphasis on technology and communications. Second, the new department will function as the multimedia arm for school marketing and advancement. Working with the administration, the media production team will address recruitment/retention by promoting school activities and culture on multiple social media platforms using a variety of effective communication methods.

Despite completing the final two months of the school year online, scores on the state required end-of-course exams for graduation were impressive and we are proud of both our students and teachers. For the juniors taking the exam in American Government, 97% scored proficient or higher and 82% exceeded the national average. Eight courses for college credit were offered on campus in 2020 including Western Civilization, US History, College Algebra/Trigonometry, and College English.

The Class of 2020 became the first class in MCS history to hold an outdoor graduation ceremony. Using the parking lot at Berean Baptist Church, families stayed in their cars for much of the event, but were able to walk across the platform and receive the diploma together as a family.

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The class of 2020 included 28 seniors and 42% were awarded academic, athletic, and private college scholarships. An impressive 82% of the class participated in the College Credit Plus program with some students earning up to 44 hours of college credit. Almost half of the class (46%) were actively involved at their church by serving, volunteering, and participating in mission trips. The most declared areas of study were in the fields of medicine, engineering, and business.

## LEADING THE WAY



## ADVANCEMENT OF MISSION

An established reputation for student care and biblical worldview training, coupled with a surge in families rethinking their child's education, has led to a 10% increase in student enrollment this year at MCS!

**A** full 140 new students and their parents came from multiple districts across our region in 2020 to explore the difference they have perceived in Christian education. This has been the largest single jump in admissions that we have seen in over 10 years. Two of our grade levels now have waiting lists. We have not lowered tuition but rather raised the value by getting decidedly better every year. The Lord has been gracious to bless our efforts and the school is well-positioned financially, academically, and spiritually to further advance its mission.

After years of research, consultations, surveys, and prayerful deliberations, we decided to expand the ministry of Christian radio by partnering WVMC with Shine FM. The mission, vision, and music format of Shine FM aligned completely with the biblical worldview and organizational values of both MCS and WVMC. The new direction for WVMC was taken only after a great deal of reflection upon the past and discernment for the future.

The partnership with Shine FM will make MCS better in two significant ways. First, it expands the broadcasting reach of WVMC and allows an experienced team of radio professionals to do what they do best – reaching and serving our communities with the love of Christ through broadcasting. Second, it allows MCS to turn its attention back to the original purpose of the station and focus on what we do best – education. Shine FM has retained the school's current station manager and will operate from the studios at MCS, leasing both office space and tower use. In addition to the regular lease income, MCS will use the proceeds from the sale of its broadcasting airwaves to both invest in the new media production program and advance payments to reduce the long-term building debt. Collectively, this is a prudent move that allows us the opportunity to both increase the value of our education and strengthen our financial position by decreasing interest payments.

MCS continued to lead the way in advocating for school choice programs. As a representative of ACSI schools in the state of Ohio, Dr. Smith was asked to testify before the Ohio House of Representatives in 2020 regarding the statewide voucher program and its impact upon private schools and their families. MCS gained national attention for its special needs program in 2020. Program founder and parent, Tera Myers, along with her son and scholarship recipient Samuel, spoke at the White House for a Roundtable discussion on Education Freedom with the President of the United States. Tera was a 2020 Republican National Convention speaker highlighting her family's story and her work for Education Freedom.

**88.5•88.9 SHINE FM**



Giving to the Annual Fund increased by almost \$30,000 in 2020!

## REVENUE

\$4,577,810\*



TUITION & FEES



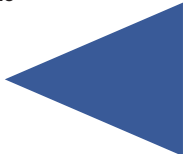
STATE OF OHIO REIMBURSEMENTS



OTHER OPERATIONAL INCOME



DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS



## EXPENSES

\$4,446,710\*



SALARIES & BENEFITS



SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL AID & DISCOUNTS



EDUCATIONAL



OPERATIONAL



OCCUPANCY

For the fifth consecutive year, the **Annual Fund** met the goal of \$120,000 to advance the mission of Christian education at MCS.

**G**iving to the Annual Fund surpassed the goal by almost \$30,000 in 2020! Thanks to the generous donations from our constituents, we were able to purchase visual and audio equipment for the new media production department, additional classroom sets of Chromebooks, robotics and 3D printing resources for the STEM program, new classroom projectors, new laptops for teacher use, and significant funding was provided for the HS Chemistry Lab which should be completed in the summer of 2021. A successful Annual Fund also provided funding to lower the school's building debt and increase the financial assistance available for families showing need.

The fee-based funding model introduced last year continues to ensure that all families provide equal funding to the advancement of the school's mission. The **facility fee** contributed to the completion of phase two of the rear parking lot paving project, directional signs throughout the campus (both inside and outside), stage one of the bathroom project in the athletic lobby (plumbing), five new room air conditioners, COVID-19 updates, and renovation of the Collaborative Learning Center (CLC). This fee will continue to finance the additional phases needed for the parking lot and help address other property concerns such as the roof, athletic lobby bathrooms, and updated classrooms in the secondary.

The goal of the annual budget at MCS is to provide excellence for both the current families and the children to come. We desire to do more than simply pay the bills and prevent loss. We want to keep excellent employees and make significant gains in the areas of spiritual maturity, academic achievement, and facility quality. In addition, we have focused our long-term budgetary targets on the elimination of building debt (\$1.5 million) and decreasing the dependency on state funding (intervention services, technology, curriculum, etc). Taken together, these features combined with healthy enrollment and value-added spending, create a viable and exciting financial outlook for MCS.

Mansfield Christian School always desires to reflect careful stewardship of the resources necessary to manage the operations and vision of a robust school. MCS is blessed to present a solid statement of operations and growth in 2020.





## STRATEGIC PLANNING & VISION

The board and administration have begun the development of a campus master plan to continue strategically enhancing our school campus and the MCS experience. Our goal is to create a multi-year comprehensive campaign that identifies potential facility improvements, enlarges the academic experience, and increases financial strength through scholarship opportunities and planned giving strategies. The development of **a campus master plan** will help us make strategic improvements to the MCS campus and advance our programs and ministries so that God may use us to continue transforming lives. Projects under consideration are the complete renovation of the Chemistry lab, the addition of restrooms in the HS gym lobby area, the reconfiguration of the concession stand and gym lobby, new security entrance for the high school, new chapel/auditorium/fine arts building, more athletic fields, new college and career programs, and a student experience department.

**The 2021-2022 school year will mark the 60th Anniversary of Mansfield Christian School!** We are planning to host an anniversary celebration in October, so be watching for further details and mark your calendars to attend this event. We are collecting items of school history from every decade such as pictures, plaques, clothing, newspapers, articles, trophies, videos, etc., to display at MCS and at the event. If you have any items that illustrate our amazing heritage, we would love to borrow them for the occasion! Please contact someone in the Central Office at extension 200 if you would like to help in any way and thank you in advance!

## 2020 MINISTRY & BUSINESS PARTNERS

Mansfield Christian School expresses heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals, businesses and organizations who have financially supported the school this year.

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 Advanced Orthodontic Care  
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 Ashland/Mansfield Foot and Ankle  
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 Emerson Charitable Trust  
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 Henry Crown & Company  
 JN Construction  
 Laurence's Towing & Repair  
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POSTAL PATRON



## STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE: HOW TO GIVE TO MCS

**W**hether you invest in a building project, classroom resources, or an endowed scholarship, a gift to MCS is an investment in God's kingdom.

**CASH GIFTS AND PLEDGES** may be made as a single gift or a pledge. Online giving is available.

**GIFTS IN KIND** possibilities are limitless. MCS needs many goods and services.

**APPRECIATED ASSETS** (*appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year*) will generate a tax deduction based upon fair market value.

**TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY** giving will enjoy certain tax advantages.

**MATCHING GIFTS** for current or retired employees are offered by many corporations.

**PLANNED GIFTS** allow you to maximize your give and/or minimize the impact of your estate.

**ENDOWMENT FUNDING** provides tuition assistance to MCS families demonstrating financial need. MCS uses two organizations for endowment funding: The Richland County Foundation in Mansfield and the In His Steps Foundation in Cleveland.