

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

March 2017



CELEBRATING **125** YEARS
EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL



CELEBRATING **125** YEARS
**EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL**

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NOTES

The Annual Stewardship Report is a publication of The Foundation for Eastern Christian School. The purpose of this publication is to share the accomplishments of the past year, the vision for the coming year, and financial/stewardship information.



Welcome to Eastern Christian School's SECOND ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Last year marked the first year that Eastern Christian School published an Annual Stewardship Report. In that report we celebrated God's provision and the support of the committed community that made possible all the wonderful things that had transpired in 2015. This year, while we are publishing our second Annual Stewardship Report, we are also celebrating our Quasquicentennial (125th) Anniversary.

We recognize first and foremost, that our mighty God established this school in 1892 and that it is by his power and provision that 125 years later we are holding fast to the mission that you can read on the next page. And while we know that God has made this happen, we also recognize that the work of God is done by the people of God giving according to the will of God. It is **because of you**, the people of God, that we can report that enrollment is climbing, support is growing, and the mission is being accomplished.

On the following pages, you will find the State of the School report from Executive Director and Head of School, Thomas G. Dykhouse. You will also find reports from each of our campus administrators detailing the news from their campuses. Amazing things are happening here and they are happening **because of you**.

We are happy to share the annual financial report, including the budget for 2017-2018 which was approved at the Association Meeting on February 22, 2017 and a link to the full auditor's report for 2015-2016. We are indebted to Eric Fenchel, Chief Financial Officer for the countless hours he and his team have put into the budget and audit processes.

Finally, we honor you, our ministry partners. **Because of your** deep and often sacrificial commitment to the cause of Christian education we are able accomplish the mission of Eastern Christian School. You will find a listing of the individuals, businesses, churches, and others who contributed to EC in 2016.

Because of you, young men and women are being equipped to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. Thank you!

David A. Visbeen

Executive Director of the Foundation for Eastern Christian School



Mission Statement

By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents in a global society.

Statement of Belief

As a Reformed educational institution, we believe that God is sovereign over all creation. We make a connection to God's claim in every subject, not just in biblical studies or chapel; in all behavior, including language, dress; and in all attitudes, including those toward others and toward property. The overall purpose of an Eastern Christian education, shaped by this Reformed perspective, is to encourage students to use their heads, hearts and hands for God and to use discernment to create a worldview that is formed through the lens of faith.

The Eastern Christian graduate is prepared to be a person of Christian vision and influence and seeks to contribute cooperatively and responsibly to God's mission of renewing all of creation.



A Mission Measured in Generations

Eastern Christian School's mission is measured not in years, but in generations. We are at a major milestone this year as we celebrate 125 years of God's faithfulness to our school community. Over the course of the next year, we will have a number of opportunities to look back at our rich history as a school, and to look ahead at the mission that the Lord is calling us to in the years ahead.

But in this report, I want to consider just three things. Firstly, the significant developments and accomplishments that have occurred since the last Annual Report. Secondly, the plans that are envisioned for the next 12 months that are funded by our budget that was approved by the members of the Eastern Christian School Association at the annual meeting held on February 22, and lastly to discuss some initiatives that will be launched in 2017, but which have a much longer time horizon and impact.

A Year of Blessings

Since our last report, we have truly had a year of blessings as our enrollment has continued to grow, we have been able to enhance our educational program, as well as make numerous improvements in our facilities.

On the enrollment front, our current enrollment has grown to approximately 810 students. That number compares to 774 at this time last year and represents about 15% growth over the last two years. I am happy to say that we have seen growth in all parts of the school and particularly happy to report that we have seen significant growth at the early childhood level.

We are thankful to be expanding existing and introducing new programs throughout the school. Expansion has occurred everywhere from our preschool, which now offers a wider array of scheduling options than ever before, to before-care and after-care options designed to meet the needs of working parents, to our high school which has significantly expanded its course offerings.



Last year we reported that we were introducing new classes in Anatomy & Physiology, Honors Physics, French, Robotics, and a new Vocational - Technical track. I am thrilled to report that we have enrolled 25 students in Anatomy & Physiology, 24 students in French, 25 students in Robotics, and have over 30 indications of interest in the Vo-Tech track for next year. In addition, Anatomy & Physiology, Honors Physics, and Advanced Biology have all been accepted for inclusion in our joint Project Acceleration program with Seton Hall University so that EC students are now able to earn up to 33 college credits while still students at ECHS. This means that students are able to complete one full year of college credits before they leave ECHS.

We have also added numerous co-curricular programs ranging from a computer coding class for elementary and middle school students held on Saturday mornings, to a girls volleyball team at the middle school, a competitive robotics team at the high school, and we are piloting a Saturday school program for our high school students.

We have made numerous facility improvements, including health and safety improvements such as a new emergency air exhaust system in our high school laboratories, an advanced emergency alarm system at the middle school, functional improvements such as new sidewalks at the elementary school and high school, and significant redecorating in the hallways and several other areas of the middle school.

Our Quasiquintennial Year

Which brings us to the year ahead and the recently approved budget. In this quasiquintennial [kwos-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uh l] year, we continue to strive for excellence in our programs and facilities, to invest in the people who have been called to serve our students, and to do everything possible to maintain access to Christian education for the families that we have the privilege to serve.

In the coming year, we are anticipating that enrollment will increase by a further 5% to 850 students. We will continue to pursue our core value of striving for excellence by:

- Continuing to expand and improve programs - for example by launching a satellite preschool at Faith Community Church adjacent to our middle school.
- Improving services to the students entrusted to us - for example by expanding the hours of nursing coverage on each of our campuses.
- Continuing our investment in our facilities - particularly in the areas of student safety and classroom improvements.



Our teachers and staff members are our greatest asset and the people who make the biggest difference in the lives of our students. And so we continue to invest in our people by increasing our staff by 3 full-time equivalent positions to support our increased enrollment and program, by granting a salary increase and maintaining a robust benefits program, and by significantly increasing our budget for continued professional learning to help our staff members maintain and advance their professional practice.

And lastly, the proposed budget continues our longstanding effort to make access to a high-quality Christian education a realistic option for as many families as possible. We accomplish this goal through our highly successful and much imitated Variable Tuition program and our continued effort to support all of our families through the 20% of our budget contributed by our active fundraising efforts and supporting activities such as *ditto*, Eagle Solar, and our Endowment Fund.

The Mission Continues

Which brings us to a very brief discussion of three efforts that will have a significant impact on our longer term mission: our reaccreditation efforts, the Board's development of an updated strategic plan, and the launch later this year of **Campaign 125**.

As this report was going to press, we were preparing for a visit by six members of an accreditation team from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. This visit will mark the culmination of a two year effort by 24 members of our school community that will result, we hope, in the Middle States Association's approval of a seven year educational plan which concentrates on character education and global competence for all of our students from Pre-K through grade 12.

Simultaneously, our Board of Directors has been working on a comprehensive update of our strategic plan for the next 10 years, with particular emphasis on enrollment growth, facility development, and financial sustainability through the elimination of debt and a significant expansion in our Endowment Fund.

In support of our longer term mission, in September we will be formally launching **Campaign 125** - a capital campaign to support student safety, major classroom renovations, and the construction of a new track and field in the property behind the high school building. More details regarding **Campaign 125** will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

A Mission Measured in Generations

In summation, we have much to celebrate as we reach our quasiquicentennial. We have received many blessings in the 12 months since our last report. We have plans for significant growth in enrollment, program, and community in our 125th year. And we continue to make plans that support our pursuit of a mission measured not in years, but in generations!

Thomas G. Dykhouse
Executive Director and Head of School



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL
DISTRICT OF CHARACTER

Elementary School

It is amazing to consider, that Eastern Christian Elementary School is now in its 125th year of providing an excellent academic education with a reformed Christian worldview to the children of Christian families in our community. We serve a mighty God!

It was with joyful hearts that Eastern Christian Preschool and Elementary School welcomed 253 students at the start of the 2016-2017 school year. After four phases of renovations, we now occupy a completely updated building that includes beautiful new interior finishes and highly efficient operating systems. Our upper playground was renovated and expanded with additional swings and a larger wood chip play space.

Eastern Christian Preschool experienced significant growth this year with a 20% increase in enrollment. Along with the Elementary School, this represents our third consecutive year of enrollment growth. Our flexible schedule and full day option allow parents the ability to plan a program that meets their specific needs. Further preschool expansion plans are in process including the addition of a satellite preschool classroom for 2017-2018.

Thanks in large part to the dedication of our active and growing PTO, we purchased new document cameras and iPads. This has helped to continue our commitment to expanded use of cutting edge technology in the classrooms. The elementary school teachers are engaged in professional development in the use of technology as well as our new math program, enVision 2.0.

This year, we expanded our Before School and After School Programs to accommodate the increased needs of our families. After School students enjoy participating in clubs such as cooking, gardening, Spanish, lacrosse, soccer, baseball and basketball. Individual piano and violin lessons are available on a weekly basis.

At the Eastern Christian Preschool and Elementary School, we continue to thank our gracious God for our students, the commitment of their families, for our dedicated faculty/staff, and for our supporting community.



Sandra Bottge
Principal, Eastern Christian Elementary School





Middle School

When one stops to consider the speed and acceptance of change, it makes it hard to imagine anything over time that doesn't change. However, the testimony of Eastern Christian School over the past 125 years gives proof to the faithfulness of God and His abundant blessings to those who follow Him. As we move toward celebrating our 125th anniversary as a school, seeing God continue to work in and through EC makes it exciting to be a part of His mission.

The 196 middle school students were welcomed

back to a building that received a summer face lift - our hallways were freshly painted to represent the school colors, lockers were painted to match the walls, and green hallway tiles were replaced with blue. The carpeting in the media center hallway, main offices, and two classrooms was replaced. New signage directed students to their classrooms. Additionally, the 26 media center computers were replaced with brand new iMacs capable of handling the latest computer applications, and thanks to our PTO, we have updated furniture in four of our classrooms. Our phone system was updated,

providing phone access in each classroom and a new intercom system for communication and safety.

More important than all of the physical updates, the middle school continues to grow in the population of diverse learners that we are able to reach. Even though we began with the same number of students we ended the year with, we welcomed 40 new students into the greater EC community. Our expanded resource room is an excellent source of support to our students and our classroom staff, making our excellent academic program accessible to a wide range of students. We are also able to offer an advanced math class that provides instruction in a high school-level geometry class to one cohort of students.

In nurturing our students' spiritual growth, we continue to offer leadership classes to our 7th and 8th grade students who are our small group leaders. These students provide an example and spiritual leadership to their peers as they prepare for and lead small group bible studies on a bi-weekly basis. Our chapels provide opportunities for our students to grow in their understanding of God's Word and its application by being taught by local church leaders. Daily devotional times provide students with a start to each day, speaking directly to the needs of middle school students and the issues they face.

It is exciting to be a part of the work God is doing in the lives of our students. God is using Eastern Christian to prepare future generations for faithful service in His kingdom by allowing us to build into our students a passion for service and a love for others.

Daniel Lazor
Principal
Eastern Christian Middle School





High School

As we enter our 125th year, Eastern Christian High School celebrates God's abundant blessings. We continue to experience growth as we maintain our commitment to an enduring mission.

Our school community continues to grow. Not only has high school enrollment increased for the sixth consecutive year, but our school community continues to grow in its reflection of the Kingdom of God. Our students and their families increasingly represent the diversity in the New York metropolitan area. Our international students, from Korea, China, Nigeria, Italy and India, provide us with a global influence and perspective.

Our program continues to grow. A second cohort of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEAM) students has entered the program. With the addition of Honors Physics, Anatomy and Physiology and Advanced Biology courses to the dual-credit Seton Hall Project Acceleration program, students can now earn up to 33 college credits while in high school! A competitive Robotics team has enhanced our co-curricular opportunities. The WINGS program, in which students participate in real world internship experiences with a particular emphasis on the trades, is off to a great start and has generated significant student interest for the future. We have also focussed on enhancing our special education program this year, to ensure that we are supporting students who learn differently.

Our growth, in both community and program, supports our enduring mission:

By providing an excellent academic curriculum, offering a variety of extra-curricular activities, and assembling a caring, culturally diverse community, we, with support of parents and local churches, empower students from Christian families to develop their gifts within the context of a Reformed Christian worldview so that they can act as Christ's transforming agents in a global society.

As we consider our role as Christ's transforming agents, we affirm our continued commitment to worship, character and service. Devotions at the start of each day connect our students with God and with each other. Worship continues weekly in well-planned and vibrant chapels. Discipleship through Man Up and Anchored Bible study groups provides popular and consistent student-led forums for spiritual growth. Service, through faith in action hours, all-school service days, or mission trips, provides an opportunity to grow in knowledge and in character. Relationships with administrators, teachers, staff members and coaches provide regular reminders to students that they have a high and holy calling as image bearers of their Creator.

In all things, Eastern Christian High School is mindful of its past, engaged in the present and committed to the future as it prepares students to be equipped for service in the Kingdom.

Ruth Kuder
Principal, Eastern Christian
High School



Introducing CAMPAIGN 125

THE FAITHFUL PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

FINANCIAL REPORT



The Accounting Firm of SAXBST has completed the audit for 2015-2016. The Auditor's Report is available for review at www.easternchristian.org/audit

The following 2017-2018 Budget Proposal was presented and approved at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Christian School Association held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017. It is presented here for information.

As we celebrate our Quasiquicentennial (125th Anniversary) at Eastern Christian School, Campaign 125 is Eastern Christian's plan to faithfully pursue excellence and community in student safety, classrooms, and athletics.

Following more than two years of discussion and planning including a feasibility study conducted within the supporting community, on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 The Board of Directors of Eastern Christian School voted to approve Campaign 125.

Campaign 125 is a new capital campaign to fund three separate areas of improvements to our campuses:

- Student Safety will encompass a number of items on all three campuses from access control, to communications, to CCTV.
- Classroom Renovations will expedite the ongoing efforts to modernization our existing classrooms, including furniture, finishes, lighting, and HVAC.
- Athletic Facility Upgrade will create a new soccer/lacrosse field and an 8 lane track on the acreage behind the Administration Building providing an onsite location for track events, community night soccer events, and a home field for lacrosse.

Details about the project and Campaign 125 will be made public soon. As we celebrate 125 years of Christian education in northern New Jersey, we hope this campaign will help us to continue our pursuit of excellence and community.



	2016-2017	2017-2018
Revenues		
Tuition and Fees	\$8,551,170	\$9,235,353
Foundation for EC	\$1,165,000	\$1,260,000
Endowment Fund	\$450,000	\$450,000
Supporting Activities	\$675,400	\$674,007
Transportation	\$270,000	\$266,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$11,111,570	\$11,885,360
Expenses		
Educational Program	\$7,127,544	\$7,797,805
Facilities	\$701,155	\$786,680
Foundation for EC	\$505,114	\$546,721
Association	\$2,293,545	\$2,211,559
Transportation	\$484,212	\$542,595
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,111,570	\$11,885,360

Notes:

1. The Foundation for EC Revenues represents fundraising activities including The Annual Fund, The Business Drive, and Events (i.e. golf outing, auction, etc). In addition, The Foundation is responsible for endowment fund, grants, capital campaigns, planned giving, etc. For 2015-2016 those areas of responsibility brought an additional \$655,225.
2. Supporting Activities includes ditto of North Jersey, Eagle Solar, Eagles Camps, and rental of facilities.
3. Association Expenses include salaries and benefits, general operating expenses, interest expense, as well as all costs associated with loan payments, insurance, unemployment, and uncollected tuition.



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We gratefully acknowledge that one hundred percent of Board Members (Operating and Foundation) contributed to The Annual Fund.

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Every gift to Eastern Christian School is important. Each year we receive a variety of gifts in a variety of sizes. Donations are generally given towards specific fund raising efforts.

The Annual Fund

Every year, each member of our community -- current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, faculty/staff, and others -- are asked to participate in The Annual Fund. These gifts are crucial to Eastern Christian School's operating budget, helping to bridge the gap between tuition and the actual cost of education.

Scholarship

Gifts are raised each year to fund Variable Tuition, helping more families have access to an academically excellent, Christ-centered education.

The Angel Fund

When student families are in crisis, The Angel Fund makes it possible for students to remain in school without additional financial pressure to the family. The Angel Fund is used in the event of a death, major illness, loss of employment or other crisis.

The Endowment Fund

Each year, The Endowment Fund of Eastern Christian School makes a significant contribution to the operating budget.

- Memorials: Many gifts are received in memory of family members and friends. These gifts are generally applied to the Endowment Fund.
- Honorariums: Friends and family often mark special events in the lives of loved ones by making a gift in their honor. These gifts are generally applied to the Endowment Fund.
- Bequests: The most significant contributions to The Endowment Fund have been through the estates of past supporters.

Capital Campaigns and Major Gifts

We routinely have needs that cannot be met through the operating budget. When these needs arise, Capital Campaigns and Major Gift solicitations are organized to fund those expenses.

Planned Giving

In addition to current gifts (cash, checks, credit cards), Eastern Christian accepts a variety of other gifts and will work with you to facilitate these gifts:

- A bequest in a will or living trust is a common planned gift. This is a simple way to make what could be your most significant and lasting gift to Eastern Christian School. Bequests usually become part of the Endowment Fund unless otherwise specified.
- Stocks, Bonds, and Securities: Gifting appreciated stocks, bonds, and securities can provide tax advantages for the donor while maximizing the gift to Eastern Christian School.
- IRA's 401K's and Life Insurance: Designate Eastern Christian School as the beneficiary of your retirement account. Your gift is tax free.
- IRA Charitable Rollover: Recently signed into law, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals over the age of 70½ to donate up to \$100,000.00 directly from their IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income.
- Charitable Remainder Trust: A gift of real estate in a charitable remainder trust will help you avoid capital gains taxes while ensuring that you receive income for the rest of your life.
- Charitable Gift Annuity: A CGA will provide an immediate tax deduction while providing income for the life of the donor(s).
- Named Endowment: Major donors may wish to consider a Named Endowment. Established during your lifetime or through your estate plan. A specific area of interest (i.e. scholarship, sciences, athletics, facilities, etc.) may be selected and an grant is given each year from the fund to that area of interest.

www.easternchristian.org/giving

The Foundation for Eastern Christian School is able to assist you with any of these giving opportunities.

For more information, call 973-427-9492.

REPORT TO ALUMNI

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Foundation Office seeks to foster a relationship and create opportunities for alumni to engage with Eastern Christian School.

973.427.9492 | foundation@easternchristian.org

ALUMNI EVENTS

HomeComing

This past year we held the 2nd Annual HomeComing Weekend, which began with the EC5K and ended with the Heritage Reunion, where the classes of 1966 and earlier enjoyed a Sunday dinner on campus. The first alumni choir concert took place after the dinner. An alumni soccer game unfortunately was rained out.



Homecoming weekend continues to grow and we look forward to HomeComing 2017!

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 20-22

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
Boys Alumni Soccer Game at 2:30pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22
Heritage Dinner for classes 1967 and earlier and a 125th Anniversary Celebration Service with an Alumni Choir Performance

Reunions

The Foundation Office assisted the Class of 1976, 1996 and 2006 in planning their reunion. Classes celebrating a milestone reunion in 2017 are welcome to organize a class reunion during Homecoming weekend, or anytime that works! Contact the Foundation Office – we are happy to help.

Thanksgiving Alumni Chapel

The Foundation Office hosted a Thanksgiving Alumni Chapel at ECHS, giving young alumni an opportunity to participate in chapel and enjoy visiting with former classmates and teachers over a bagel and coffee.

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 22



ALUMNI GIVING

Thank You! In 2016, the Foundation Office received donations from 404 alumni totaling \$241,100 (This does not include donations from alumni-based businesses)

RETURNING ALUMNI DONORS

384

DECADE WITH THE GREATEST NUMBER OF ALUMNI DONORS

1950's

NEW ALUMNI DONORS

20

DECADE WITH GREATEST GIVING

1960's



March 10, 2017
Scholars Dinner
Arcola Country Club
Paramus, NJ

May 6, 2017
Touch a Truck
EC Middle School
Wyckoff, NJ

October, 2017
Athletic Boosters Golf Outing
Wallkill Golf Club
Middletown, NY

April 20, 2017
Auction Gala
Indian Trail Club
Franklin Lakes, NJ

May 22, 2017
Spring Golf Outing
Black Bear Golf Club
Franklin, NJ

October 20-22, 2017
HomeComing & EC5K

January 29, 2018
Athletic Boosters Beefsteak
The Brownstone
Paterson, NJ



EASTERN CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

The Foundation for Eastern Christian School
50 Oakwood Avenue
North Haledon, NJ 07508

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Eastern Christian's Mission: To provide an excellent academic education within the context of a Christian world and life view, in a culturally diverse and caring environment for the children of Christian families.

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