



PROVIDENCE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A Classical Christian School

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- A ministry of First Presbyterian Church -

Board Initiative: Student Learning Services

King David, reflecting on how God created him, wrote, "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14

Providence Christian School's mission statement is, "By God's grace, we are striving to be a school that impacts the entire family and encourages each student to become all that God calls him to be." We do this by partnering with Christian families in the Wiregrass area who share our vision for classical Christian education and by striving to provide opportunities for its students and their families to understand and experience Truth, beauty, and goodness.

From the beginning of the school, one challenge to achieving this mission has been how we serve students with various learning or intellectual differences. The Providence Christian School board began actively exploring this in a more intentional way a few years ago with a "crawl, walk, run" approach. The board directed an initiative called "Student Learning Services." The fruit of Student Learning Services has been tremendous, already helping many grammar school students with learning challenges of various kinds and degrees.

As the school has worked through this "crawl" phase of Student Learning Services, we have identified not only the incredible potential but also the consistent need for it at all ages and every stage in our school, from Providence Early Childhood through the Rhetoric School. It is a reality of life that disabilities and all kinds of learning differences exist. We desire to come alongside our students to help them discover how they are "fearfully and wonderfully made" and become all that God calls them to be. There are challenges and beauty in helping our students, and this initiative is something we are going to strive for by God's grace.

We, by faith and with hope, believe that the love of Christ is compelling us to move into a "walk" phase of Student Learning Services at PCS. To begin "walking," we have identified the need to hire a director who can continue to add framework and guidelines, and perhaps most importantly, create a collaborative approach for serving these students, engaging with Providence parents, and helping our entire student population see how this fits into their biblical worldview and classical Christian education. The Parable of the Lost Sheep reminds us

of the value God puts on the one – the value connected to Him and the value connected to His flock. The ninety-nine become richer when the one is included and cared for in the flock; and thus, allowing for our entire student body to experience the fullness of God's kingdom.

God's word tells us that every person is made uniquely by God. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that we are his workmanship, created for good works that He has prepared for us to do. The philosophy of this initiative is not about making things easier for students, but about equipping them for good works. Providence values the rigor and high standards of excellence set in the classroom and across our co-curricular activities. We will not water down our standards. We desire to protect the foundation that has proven to equip students while also implementing structures to support our students who need more. The board is sensitive to the need for guardrails to provide lanes and pathways for teachers to successfully teach all of their children, while also incorporating the dedicated on-ramps for Student Learning Services to provide for those who require these services. Many of the practical specifics will be fleshed out as we work with a new Director who is equipped to plan and implement this initiative while working with teachers and parents to craft plans for individual needs.

There are financial considerations in providing for a program of this caliber. Our goal is that this program will have financial independence; so that, its freedom allows it to flourish in its realm of possibilities and needs. Student Learning Services has been blessed in its initial phase with generosity allowing for growth into this new chapter. Thank you, Lord!

Proverbs 16:9 states, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." The board believes that striving to grow this initiative at our school is biblical and consistent with our mission, but we also believe it is a big task that must be done with wisdom and charity. Please pray for God's will to be done as we serve well the children He puts in our path; and for God to go with us, and before us, as we take the next step of Student Learning Services.

We are committed to communicating with you as we walk forward in this process. There is much to pray over, discuss, and implement. We value your input and encourage your feedback. We are in this together. Lastly, the board has developed a job description for a Director of Student Learning Services. If you or someone you know, fit the description and have the qualifications, and most importantly, feel that God may be calling you to be considered for this role, please express your interest by emailing the PCS board at pcsboardsecretary@gmail.com.

Soli Deo gloria.