



Celebrating 55 years of education-based ministry

Bruce Kelly, president
bruce.kelly@rainierchristian.org
(425) 255-7273

Dear RCS Family,

October 2018

Can I lift your eyes to our new anniversary logo? Symbolically, the design encircles 55 years of ministry to families. In September, when new families arrive alongside saints with generational ties to RCS, the interactions fizz with possibilities. Consider a kind word, encouragement, prayer, and new friends and mentors as community benefits to Christian education. Lifted by those images, I want to bend my letter toward the timeless ideas distinguishing a Christian education.

At RCS, kids learn that they are created in God's image to glorify Him and steward His creation. They understand the creation was distorted by the Fall. As redeemed followers of Jesus, God equips them to bring His message of faith, hope, and love to their sphere of influence. They also understand their brief time on earth is lived with purpose, and they are eternal beings with a vibrant destiny.

Students see learning and understand life through this framework. They engage in critical appreciation and experience the world around them, but are not engulfed by it with no equipping. RCS nurtures students to give thanks for what is noble, pure, and lovely, and to discern that which is distorted. Students learn to be repelled by those fallen aspects, and celebrate the glorious ones.

Within that framework, our kids will struggle. When they do, a biblical worldview, Christian community, and caring staff helps them navigate around trouble, remain fixed on a true heading, and stand firm against opposing forces. Our teachers and administrators love Jesus, adore your kids, and hold tightly to biblical standards. They support students by walking them through confession, forgiveness, and restoration. RCS kids learn in context how their faith delivers them through struggles as they blossom into Christian maturity.

Our academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs reinforce your cherished values. Every student's formative years carry eternal implications. I trust RCS equips them in an unmatched way for this life and life eternal. Thank you for choosing Rainier Christian Schools.

Equipping students for adult life accelerates during high school. High school is a critical time, and emotionally, can be the toughest part of parenting. After studying last April's climate survey results about RCHS, the shared concerns pointed to improving our program. The survey data and enrollment trend spark a new initiative for Rainier Christian High School, retool. A working definition offers a way to kick start the initiative into motion.

rē 'tōol/

verb

gerund or present participle: **retooling**

equip (a factory) with new or adapted tools.

- o adapt or alter (someone or something) to make them more useful or suitable.
"he likes to retool the old stories to make them relevant for today's kids"

"Educating and Developing the Whole Person for the Glory of God"

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The retool initiative is not about changing RCS' mission or vision. In this context, retooling focuses on a student's God-given talents and aspirations within interest and gift pathways.

To support the initiative, please note the calendar of activities below. Your input, review, and questions are central to the initiative's success. Later this week, the principals will forward a first draft of the interest and gift pathways. Up through the December town hall meetings, parents, students, and staff contributions shape the pathway's design. With your help, my goal is to finalize our interest and gift model in January.

RCBS Retool Calendar

- August—Notify Principal
- September—Notify HS Staff and RCS Board
- October—Input Sessions from Students, Staff, and Parents
- November—Final Version for Review
- **December 3rd and 4th** —Town Hall Meetings for High School and Middle School Families
- January—Finalize Model
- February-June—Staffing Decisions, Christian Business Outreach
- September—New Model Implemented

Thank you in advance for your help. Please send any questions my way. I look forward to engaging our community and learning together.

The RCS 55th anniversary tribute continues...

Last month, the stirring anecdote of how RCS began contains a second act.

Recall the turning point from September's letter, "However, one of the engineers walking with the Christian contingent remembered an abandoned 2" water line that ran from the property to Fairwood. He shared how the sewer effluent pumped through the line with the solids collected in the old septic tank could work. That idea enabled Christian Enterprises to obtain eight acres and the current buildings at Maple Valley Elementary."

A perfect idea at the right moment illustrates how God's timing often arrives at the 11th hour. Because the pioneers of RCS envisioned something greater, they applied for and on January 11, 1967, received tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) organization. The IRS letter of determination proved instrumental to obtain the eight acres, Maple Valley campus, in 1972. More than 50 years later, I use a copy of the letter to apply for grants and verify of our tax-exempt status. A wrinkled sample of the original document appears on the next page.

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A scanned document from the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service. The letter is dated JAN 11 1967 and is addressed to Christian Enterprises, Inc., P. O. Box 452, Maple Valley, Washington 98038. The letter discusses the organization's exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A table on the right side of the letter provides details about the purpose and accounting period. The purpose is listed as 'Religious and Educational'. The accounting period is 'June 30'. There are checkboxes for 'FORM 990-A REQUIRED' with 'YES' and 'NO' options, and 'NO' is checked. The letter also includes a note about the requirement to file Federal income tax returns.

Our approval to use the eight-acres, however, did not translate into acquiring a full title. The government's stipulation required using the property solely for education purposes for a period of 30 years. Christian Enterprises honored the agreement. The deed is recorded as conveyed to us in 2002.

Providentially, the Kent School District abandoned their plans to develop the adjacent parcel. In 2003, KSD released the 34.5 acres back to the Department of Education. Christian Enterprises petitioned the DE for the property. The DE granted the request in part because Christian Enterprises fulfilled its 30-year commitment on the smaller plot. In the government's eyes, our action demonstrated a rare commitment. They also waived the 50% fair-market-value payment. The story reminded me of the principle found in Lk 16:10, "*He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much.*"

I trust the history of RCS inspires us. In my heart and mind, what is written about Rainier Christian Schools 55 years from now triggers a reaction to pray as if everything depends on God, and work as everything depends on us. To God be the Glory.

My best,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Bruce Kelly'.

Bruce Kelly

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