



Vineyard Anaheim

January 31st, 2020

Dear Vineyard Christian School families and staff,

Vineyard Anaheim's Board of Directors are saddened to announce that VCS Elementary and Middle School will permanently close at the end of the 2019/2020 School year. After providing quality Christ-centered education and spiritual formation for nearly 3 decades, VCS will graduate its final class in the spring of 2020.

VCS Preschool will remain open.

As you may be aware the landscape for small private Christian Schools has changed significantly over the last decade. Economic changes have escalated the cost of running smaller schools disproportionately. This, along with competition from Public Schools, other Private Schools, and Home Schools has put increasing pressure on our enrollment. VCS was established and structured to accommodate and educate 360-400 students - after a sustained period of decline, we currently have less than half the number of required students.

Vineyard Anaheim has underwritten the cost of VCS throughout its history, but as we enter the second decade of decreasing enrollment and increasing costs, the church is no longer able to do so. Naturally, this decision has not been entered into lightly. It has been the subject of a great deal of deliberation, concern and prayer.

We want to assure parents and students that our school will continue to operate for the remainder of this current school year, and all staff and teachers will be retained until then.

At this time, we especially want to honor our teachers and staff - both past and present - for their professionalism and dedication. We are deeply grateful for their investment and ministry to our students, parents and community.

Our hearts and prayers are with you and your families.

Yours in Christ,

Vineyard Anaheim Board of Directors



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FAQ's

When will the school close?

After providing quality Christ-centered education and spiritual formation for nearly 3 decades, VCS will graduate its final class in the spring of 2020. Our elementary and middle school will close at the end of the academic year.

What about the Preschool?

Our Preschool continues to flourish, is growing, and has a waiting list. It will continue to operate in the same location.

Why are we closing VCS now?

We explored closing the school when principal Jim Wilkinson retired. We decided to put new leadership in place in the hope we could reverse the unfortunate trend we find ourselves in and that the school would flourish. However, we simply lack the financial stability and student enrollment numbers at this time to continue. With open enrollment available in February we wanted to give parents ample time to consider alternative education options for the next academic year.

Why can't the church continue its support?

Our school has been operating at a loss for a long time and has been largely supported by Vineyard Anaheim. During the last decade the church has underwritten the loss at an annual cost in excess of \$200k (this amount does not include the forfeited annual rental income of 800k - 1.4 million). As we enter the second decade of decreasing enrollment and increasing costs, the church is simply unable to continue this level of support.

How will this affect the remainder of the academic year?

All current staff and teachers will be retained for the remainder of the 2020 school year. We anticipate continued provision of courses and classes but may have to streamline some extracurricular engagements and activities.

What are my options for early withdrawal?

We understand that some families may think about withdrawing from VCS early, but our hope is you would remain with us in our final year and celebrate all that VCS has meant to its students, families and community. For those who do choose early withdrawal, VCS will waive its normal policy for the month of February and refund unused tuition up to and including the month of February. For March-June, our normal policy will be reinstated.



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Would VCS consider merging with another school?

The short answer is no. Our founders had a clear vision for the school beginning and we are grateful for the ways VCS has contributed to the community over the years. The Bible says there is a time to begin and a time to end. And that God has made everything beautiful in its time. Although beginnings are exciting and endings are painful, we sense that now is the right time for the school to close.

What if I have more questions?

We realize this is a lot to process and welcome questions. We also want to finish well and celebrate all that VCS has meant to us over the years. With that in mind, for the month of February only, if further questions arise please feel free to contact Greg Scherer (email contact is available from the school office). Please note, we will be unable to process any questions after that time.