

VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

VALLEY CHRISTIAN 2020: *Renewed and Ready*





DAN KUIPER, ADMINISTRATOR

I can honestly say I have never been more excited about the direction and vision at Valley Christian High School.

Recognizing the rapidly changing educational landscape, the board of directors decided to embark on the development of a comprehensive strategic plan. To lead this effort, we appointed Dr. Alan Pue of the Barnabas Group to guide a task force through a rigorous strategic planning process. Over the past year, more than 50 members of the Valley Christian community have been working on developing our school's plan for the next several years. This group included board members, administration, faculty, students, parents, alumni, and other community members.

The first thing you need to know about our strategic plan is that we are not changing who we are or what we teach. This plan serves to enrich our current programs and allows us to offer more opportunities, enhancing the way we educate and prepare students for where God calls them in life. We are very proud of our well-rounded, distinctly Christian education and the relationships built here; these will always be foundational to the educational experience at Valley Christian.

The planning process resulted in four strategic initiatives, some of which we have already begun to implement this school year. Our initiatives include: **Innovative Learning, Enhancing Faculty Culture, Facility Expansion and Long-Term Financial Sustainability.**

Again, I am incredibly excited about this plan and what it means for current and future Valley Christian students. We look forward to the challenges ahead and ask you to join us as, together, we work to honor Christ through excellence at Valley Christian High School.

THE MISSION OF
VALLEY CHRISTIAN
HIGH SCHOOL

for students to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, live like Him, and prepare academically, physically, socially and spiritually, so they are enabled to make a difference in the world.

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

PARENTS & COMMUNITY

Mark Bare
Bart Burkert
Keith Heeringa
Janey Knipmeyer
Mark Knipmeyer
Sharon Kortman
Harold Molenaar
Melinda Robertson
Scott Yarbrough

STUDENTS & ALUMNI

Priscila Matos '17
David Mehlhorn '04
Steven Widger '16
Mark Wilson '01

ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY & STAFF

Allan Alvarado
Robyn Bellerson
Michelle Cefola
Greg Haagsma
Marianne Heim '97
Barbara Hunsaker
Tom Jacobson
Dan Kuiper
Paul Schanaker
Troy Thelen '03
Dr. Greg Tonkinson
Bryan Winfrey '04

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THE IN-DEPTH, SIX-MONTH STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS WAS LED BY DR. ALAN PUE, PRESIDENT OF THE BARNABAS GROUP.

The Barnabas Group specializes in strategic planning for Christian schools, colleges, and churches. Dr. Pue earned an M. Ed. from Florida Atlantic University and an Ed. D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Delaware.

Involved in Christian schooling most of his life, Dr. Pue is a 1967 graduate of Dade Christian School; served for several years as a Christian school teacher, guidance counselor, and coach; and then served as Headmaster at Pike Creek Christian School in Newark, Delaware where he ministered for 15 years.

In 1996, Dr. Pue accepted a call to serve as Senior Vice President and Provost of The Master's College in Santa Clarita, California. During the five years of his leadership, the college experienced four consecutive years of record enrollment and was recognized for the first time by US News and World Report as a top-tier regional liberal arts college.

In his current capacity as President of The Barnabas Group, Dr. Pue travels extensively throughout North America, speaking at Christian school conferences and working with ministry leaders in the areas of strategic planning, governance, and marketing. He has served as a visiting faculty member at the Meyer Institute for Steward Leadership, as adjunct professor at Columbia International University, and currently serves on the board of the Educational Foundation of ACSI. His book, "Re-thinking Sustainability: A Strategic Financial Model for Christian Schools," was published in 2012.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#1

Innovative Learning

RATIONALE

Valley Christian High School is striving to develop Christ-led innovators that have expertise as critical thinkers and problem solvers, and we believe we can foster a culture of innovative learning across the school's entire curriculum. This will help prepare students for opportunities which may not currently exist and to do so through a distinctly Christian lens.

A culture of innovation moves away from the traditional teacher centered classroom toward an approach that more actively engages students in the learning process. In fact, we've already begun to implement innovative learning in a number of ways. Through iValley, our 1-to-1 technology program which puts an iPad in the hands of every student, we have seen increased levels of student engagement with both teachers and peers, plus the opportunity for additional collaboration. In 2016, we also launched two additional STEM classes (Introduction to Engineering, STEM Biology) and will continue to offer additional classes for students more interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Relationships between teachers and students are foundational to our learning experience, and this will not change. Our enhanced programs and additional offerings of innovative learning are just a few of the tools our faculty have in their educational toolbox. We believe this provides one more tool to help our students become problem solvers who are prepared for the future.

In addition to promoting innovative learning, collaboration, problem solving, and critical thinking, some longer term goals of this initiative support teacher professional growth, and pair students with industries that provide hands-on internships and real world problems to solve.





STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#2

Enhancing Faculty Culture

RATIONALE

Studies have shown that the number one factor for student retention is a satisfied and engaged faculty. While this is already a strength at Valley Christian, it is something we highly value and want to continue to build. Since relationships are foundational to the education our students receive, this starts with engaged, motivated and properly equipped teachers.

At Valley Christian, we have accomplished teachers with diverse experiences and educational backgrounds. Our administrator has been at the school for 34 years, and he is joined by 13 others who have called Valley Christian home for more than 10 years. Our new teachers bring exuberance and a fresh perspective to the classroom. More than 50% of our faculty hold an advanced degree, including two with doctorates.

Research by our own Dr. Tonkinson has shown that meaningful relationships result in greater student success. This is true at all levels of our organization. We are purposefully investing energy, effort and resources in our most important resource, our teachers. We are confident this will improve our students' experience at Valley Christian.

Three areas we have identified to enhance faculty culture are improved staff unity and morale, continued staff training and improved Biblical integration throughout every class. Some examples of what this looks like include: an annual faculty retreat, more focused professional development such as workshops and conferences, and implementing a program focused on Biblical integration in all subject areas.

A faculty that works together for a common purpose and is driven by the same core values, thrives. Understanding how important our teachers are, we want to ensure they have opportunities to continue to grow.





STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#3

Facility Expansion

RATIONALE

Based on the increased demand of a Valley Christian High School education and in keeping with the school's master plan and mission, we are developing plans to pursue the addition of a two-story academic building and parking lot.

As enrollment continues to increase, we are rapidly approaching capacity with our current facilities. Additionally, in accordance with our master plan, we cannot finish the campus without first constructing an academic building with additional parking. The building will also fulfill a zoning requirement with the City of Chandler to replace the temporary modular classrooms currently between the main academic building and gymnasium.

The construction of a state-of-the-art, two-story, 19,000 square-foot academic building will allow us to offer additional programs and classes for up to 600 students on our campus. Four simple classrooms currently in that space will give way to 14 brand new classrooms, with the second floor dedicated to our expanding STEM offerings (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Valley Christian is not changing who we are, and our focus will continue to be in providing a well-rounded education. These classrooms will not only enlarge our footprint, but also create collaborative, innovative spaces for our students to occupy.

The addition of a parking lot on the south side of Galveston is a city requirement. This must be completed before we increase our capacity for students and before we eventually cut into the current parking lot for the next phase of facility expansion. The Building Committee, which has already been formed, will work with architects, engineers, and contractors as the specific plans begin to take shape.



Where do I go?
What would you say?

- Satan rules hell
- Karma

- Evolution or Creation
- People are all good and nice
- All I need to go to heaven is belief in Jesus
- I've been told I'll go to heaven
- He'll be there the time
- Please
- But

en
s, or teach the Bible
n or what church I go to.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

#4

Long-Term Financial Sustainability

RATIONALE

Valley Christian High School has a rich history of generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure. It started with moving from a church building to a strip mall and now to our current campus. It continues today through the countless volunteer hours and generous financial gifts throughout the year.

A long-term fundraising strategy is important in order to sustain – and improve – the work we are doing at Valley Christian High School. A school that is financially thriving is able to attract and retain students and families that want to be a part of our success. Keeping tuition affordable, having a greater impact and influence on our students, and increasing the value and quality of our product are all critical components of our success. Each are driven by a thriving and sustainable financial model, which includes significant fundraising.

As we begin to look toward the next 35 years of our history, our primary focus is on “Sustainability.” We believe in what God has done, is doing, and will do at Valley Christian. We are committed not only to our current students and families, but to the next generation as well.

With the guidance of the Board and the diligence of the Administration, last year—for the first time—the school ran a balanced budget. This means we no longer need to fundraise to “fill the gap” between what it costs to educate each student and what we charge in tuition.

Besides a balanced budget, our sustainability plan includes a newly-established Endowment Fund, increased resources on STO education and solicitation, professional development, and an increased focus on developing long-term relationships with our community.



VALLEY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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