

Downers Grove Christian School

"A Distinctly Christian Education"

929 Maple St., Downers Grove, IL 60515

www.dgchristian.org

**An Education Obtained At Downers Grove Christian School
Will Give Your Child A Superior Advantage In Every
Aspect Of Life . . .**

- **Academically**
- **Spiritually**
- **Socially**
- **In the Family**

**If Your Child Is Accepted For Enrollment This Year, You
Will Give Your Child
A Priceless Gift Of Excellence In Education and
Character Building. . .And A Second Family.**

Dear Concerned Parent,

If I am not mistaken, you are the parent of young children.

And that means we have both spent some sleepless nights praying, rocking, consoling, holding and hugging a little one.

It also means that we have some tough decisions to make as parents. . . decisions that weigh heavily on who our children are, how they are cared for in the home and in the school, and who they will be tomorrow.

Outside of the home, the number-one influence in our children's young lives is the school they attend. For nine months out of every year, their minds are molded and stretched. Their social lives are lived out in their classroom, recess yard and lunchroom. To a great extent, their impressions of who they are in their everyday social world are determined in school.

The story of their lives is written by what they learn, the effect of their teachers' examples on them, and their interaction with their peers. A lot is happening to your child at school.

Over, please. . .

You and I both know that a parent doesn't have much influence over his or her kids while they're at school. Yes, we can discuss matters with our child, with the teacher, and get some feedback on how their day went - but we can't sit in the classroom every day. That is the domain of the teachers.

What is taught in the classroom very often affects the child for years - possibly, for life. I still remember positive remarks from grade school teachers I heard long ago, and you probably do as well. What is learned early and reinforced over and over again takes root in the mind and becomes "the way it is" in the child's thinking.

In our world today, the problem for parents can become complex: Just what are your children learning in their school, and does it agree with what you are teaching them in the home?

Can you be assured that the teachers in your child's school relate to how you have been bringing up your child at home? And even more importantly, do they reflect your ideals and world views? Can you rest assured that if your faith is strong in the home, everything your child is learning affirms and reflects that faith and its moral imperatives?

A Simple Solution To A Complex Problem

I am writing today to make one of your life's most challenging decisions very simple.

You see, there is a way to give your children the very best in education, and it fits in perfectly with what you teach at home. And it solves a host of other problems, eliminating most of your concerns as a parent.

- A superior education
- A superior group of teachers
- A superior peer group
- A superior spiritual environment
- A superior set of "success habits"

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A Unique and Distinctive Education

Just imagine a school where class sizes are smaller, so that teachers get to know their students personally. And how that leads to the teacher's ability to understand each student's strengths, weaknesses, learning style and personality.

A school where your child is loved, prayed for and gets personal attention. A school where harmony with students and faculty is the norm.

What would a relationship like that be worth to you as a parent, especially knowing that the teacher is a positive role model for your student?

Can you imagine a learning environment where your child is going beyond the realm of merely learning facts and taking tests, but is being taught to apply that knowledge with reason, common sense, relating everything through the lens of Scripture and the perfect wisdom of God?

And how would it be if your child had a positive peer group made up of fellow students who strengthen, support, uplift and encourage. . .not tempt, cajole, ridicule, or compete?

A Paradigm Shift - Or The Way It's Supposed To Be?

Think for a moment how it would be to have your child gain an education that mirrors the subjects and pattern of our nation's Founding Fathers--some of the greatest men in all of history. Men who, from their earliest days, had the Hand of God upon them, by learning about Him in school and by following His principles from a very young age.

Just imagine that all aspects of your child's life - social, academic, spiritual and home life - are in perfect harmony, with no major conflicts. How would that be?

There's Much More . . .

There is a lot of spiritual power and advantage for the one who exhibits the Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 lists these "Fruits:" Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. And it goes on to add, "...against such things, there is no law."

Over, please. . .

Now, of course it's a student's choice if he or she wants to live this exemplary life throughout life after DGCS - but that's what your child will learn to exhibit if enrolled here. How would that be if you knew that your child lived a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control every day?

The Search For Something Missing

This is the story of Luke. . .told by Amy, his mom:
"In preschool, my son, Luke, was so shy. In a group piano lesson, if a new student was added to the group, he wouldn't participate that day. He would miss snack time because he was so shy that he wouldn't speak up and ask for his snack. We were very concerned.

Originally, for kindergarten I was going to put him in the public school; we checked out many schools. He was so tender hearted and shy . . .and I didn't want to see him lost. We also debated whether to hold him back. So we said we'll put him in a private school, and if we hold him back, he won't even know he was held back - then we'll put him in the public school (because he's a May birthday.)

A Miracle? Or Could DGCS Just Be Part Of God's Plan?

"And so after looking at a couple of different schools, we found Downers Grove Christian School, and it was wonderful: There were only 5-6 kids in this afternoon kindergarten class, so I enrolled him -- and it was the greatest value I could ever find in an education for my son. With 6 kids in the class, it was almost like a private tutor, and the very first day I didn't even want to do the car line (to pick him up after school) because he was so shy. So I waited for him outside the classroom door, and I could hear him talking--it was the first time I ever heard him speak in any classroom environment. He just felt so secure here. And if you talk to anybody, he was the shyest child that was ever here.

"He would stand behind kids in the Christmas program - I wouldn't see him. But by third grade, he had a solo in the school play, and he's not a singer, but they gave him a solo. As the years went by, his confidence improved so much that he started being in all the plays. It was just a total turnaround in personality."

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A Whole New World Of True Freedom For Your Child

Amy Adds, "He's at Downers Grove North now. He's on the football team. He loves school; he has a ton of friends. He's the only football player that doesn't swear. He's starting a no-swear club; he's trying to get them all to stop, and they respect him. He said, "Everyone knows that I'm a Christian, and I have so many friends you can't believe it." And I believe it!

"This school's given him so much confidence; he's just turned into a man here, and he's so firm in his beliefs and values that he's not swayed by what he sees around him. If anything, he's telling the people around him, "Hey, don't do that - come to church with me; do this," and they respect him for it. Because he's not wishy-washy; he knows what he believes. He knows what's right and what isn't. I am just so amazed with that part of the school: it's changed him for the better.

"He went through so many awkward times and phases, but nobody ever teased him; nobody ever made fun of him. He played the flute and nobody ever teased him.

"I feel a great peace with my children there. The school has instilled confidence in my son and has trained him to be a true leader. I wondered about sending him to other schools, back when he was small, but DGCS was a place where I knew he would have quality of life and education. And I wanted it right then, not sometime in the future--so we enrolled him then and there. And we've never regretted it."

Enrollment Is Limited . . .

So is God speaking to you right now, about considering a Christian education at Downers Grove Christian School for your student?

Before you meet with me, I believe it's necessary to let you know about enrollment at DGCS. First, we have a limited number of enrollment openings; at the present time, only **XX** new student enrollments can be made this school year.

Because, the very simple fact is that as much as we would love to, we can't take everyone.

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First of all, our classroom sizes are limited. It is key to our educational model that our teachers have a close, personal, one-on-one relationship with each of their students.

Second, there are families and children who may not be an exact fit for the environment that we create at Downers Grove Christian School. For example...

- Some children and families may find that our behavior code, as constructive as it is for your child, may not be for everyone. Self-discipline may not carry the importance in some homes that it does here.
- Others find the dress code and moral ethics/standards too exacting for their lifestyles.
- Obviously, there are some who are not in a financial position to attend a private school - although, to be truthful, it most often (but not always) comes down to a priority issue. We have some parents who have sacrificed extensively to ensure that their child has the best education and learning environment that life can offer.

Whatever the case may be, DGCS could unquestionably benefit every young child - but not everyone will feel that it is a "fit" for their child.

DGCS understands and sincerely respects those parents. And in the end, we defer to them to determine, after prayerfully considering everything here, what's best for their child.

But I believe that you are reading this letter because you feel that you and your child could be a part of those select few that qualify to enroll.

An Inside Look: What DGCS Will Do For Your Child

So let me give you a deeper look into Downers Grove Christian School:

Every day begins with prayer. **Prayer is the foundation** of our school. Prayer underscores our reliance upon the Living God and our trust in His Son, Jesus Christ - to guide and direct us (Proverbs 3:5), to impart wisdom (James 1:5), and to fill us with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9).

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The foundation does three things. It helps the children to understand that God is and always will be first and foremost in their lives. He alone is the Rock upon which all truly successful lives are built.

Secondly, it allows God's Holy Spirit to interact with each student and teacher in the process of learning, understanding and growing in the faith - every single day.

Thirdly, true learning begins right there, at the prayer foundation. Students are co-laboring with and relying on God to answer them in their quest for knowledge, wisdom and truth. They also experience the answers to prayer, and understand with soul-deep conviction the incredible power of prayer, and of this amazing God, who loves them unconditionally.

A Unique School And Teaching Model That Gives Your Child So Much

Next comes the actual teaching, and true learning follows. Our curriculum, environment and teaching model are unlike anything you will see in the public school system and many other private schools.

We teach and illustrate daily how God is intimately and actively involved in all of His creation, from the vast reaches of the Universe down to the smallest known atomic particle.

Whether the discipline is science or mathematics, history or creative writing, reading or language, physical education or music - our students gain a fuller understanding of the amazing complexity and orderliness of God's world. They will also gain a deeper awareness of the goodness and power of their Creator.

Whether the student is in our new gymnasium, learning that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and how to develop that temple . . . or studying doctrine in the warm ambience and good company of his or her fellow students in the classroom . . .

We teach every student that he/she is a "one-off," totally unique masterpiece (Ephesians 2:10), created in God's image and entrusted to parents who, in turn, entrust their masterpieces to us at DGCS.

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How Does This Teaching Method Work? Is It Really Unique?

Well, maybe we should refer to it as the "Four **Rs**." That is to say our teaching methodology employs four, interrelated components:

- **Research** - Now who is more inquisitive than a young child? Students from Preschool 3 to 8th grade are taught to seek answers to their myriad questions. They are taught these skills from their earliest years here, which are progressively honed and expanded upon. This results in a powerful advantage in every area of their lives at every turn, because they are living the Scriptural guarantee, "Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7)
- **Reasoning** - This is the "how" of learning. True reasoning is either deductive (theory-hypothesis-observation-confirmation), or inductive (observation-pattern-tentative hypothesis-theory); and on a daily basis, the student is taught the use of each. Because life is about practical outcomes and solutions, the student's mind comes alive and understanding grows consistently.
- **Relating** - What is arrived at by reasoning is applied Scripturally and practically in the daily life of the student. He or she learns how God's truth fits in with what is being researched, studied and reasoned. The effective application of relating in the curriculum and in everyday life becomes clearly and indelibly imprinted in the mind, and is used effectively as the student develops.
- **Revelation** - God's word, the Bible, is His love letter to mankind, His instruction manual for living, and His revelation to us. At the core of our curriculum is our reliance upon Scripture to inspire, teach, correct, explain, assist and empower the student. God has spoken to every man, woman and child on Planet Earth, and His crucial outline for all of life is woven into every teaching lesson and subject in our school. As the student progresses, the Hand and wisdom of God, the Master Teacher, is revealed.

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As you can tell, the way we teach our students at DGCS is not rote learning - mere absorption of facts and data, followed by mindless repetition. As you've read, learning is accomplished through a unique combination of Research, Reasoning, Relating, and Revelation. The difference is vast, and so are the outcomes.

Your Child's Future Can Be Filled With Purpose, True Significance, Power and Confidence

God loves your child unconditionally. He has told His faithful, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) What can possibly stand in the way of a student who has the blessing of God, parents and school family - coupled with knowledge, wisdom and power to change the world? And that power is virtually limitless. Yes, even in this uncertain world in which we live!

So take just a minute, sit back . . .and really consider what's in front of you right now:

- Your child will be under the tutelage of the greatest Power in the Universe.
- Your child will learn to think in totally unique and powerful ways that frankly, most people do not even know exist.
- Your child will learn to observe, understand and deal with the world on a level far deeper and beyond the reach of a child taught by rote learning.

And all of this will be happening not in the "jungle" of the world - but in an uplifting place of love, support, teamwork, encouragement, fun, personal and individual attention - and all under the approving Spirit and guidance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It's quite all right to dream . . .to imagine the possibilities of what your child will have available to him or her at Downers Grove Christian School. It truly is a unique opportunity. So be excited, and be inspired! I certainly am!

Okay. . .So What Does DGCS Cost?

First of all, there is no question that the gift of an education at DGCS is priceless to you and to your child. There really is no realistic price tag that we could put on the value of the items that we have discussed here.

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Many good things in life can be had for little or no cost, but those things called priceless are often very high in cost... education in a private school being among them. It is not uncommon for tuitions in these rare and exclusive schools to approach and even exceed many thousands of dollars a year.

Perhaps that is why so many of our parents are delighted to learn that tuition at Downers Grove Christian School ranges from \$105 a month for Preschool 3 to \$368.50 a month for 8th Grade.

**Calculate The Return On Investment . . .
Your Child Is Worth It**

You make choices every day on how you spend the money that comes into your household. And don't we lament that many of the things we spend money on are new today, only to be discarded or outmoded in a very short while . . . or are destined to perish with the using?

But your child is your eternal heritage. What you do leave the earth with will be the good things that you have done, the relationships that you have forged and built and nurtured, and the love that you have exercised in affectionate, practical and very sacrificial ways. Other than your personal relationship with the Living God, what better, safer or wiser investment can you make in all of life than your children? I know that you want for your child the very best education that life can offer, and the very strongest foundation that could ever be established.

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it." (Psalm 127:1)

An investment in your child's Christian education at DGCS will give that child an unparalleled foundation of faith, courage, significance, power, wisdom, and the Fruit of the Spirit to become a powerful force for good and a light in this world.

Is God Speaking To You Right Now?

There is no better time to decide than right now. There is an amazing, new life awaiting your child and your family at Downers Grove Christian School.

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I know that my child is loved at Downers Grove Christian School. Soon, the same might well be said of your child, but part of that equation depends on the next step that you take.

The next step is to simply pick up the phone and give me a call. I'd be delighted to speak with you and answer any questions you might have. There is no risk and there will be no pressure. Remember, you are interviewing me every bit as much as I am interviewing you. So we can both relax and decide if this is a good "fit" for both of us.

The very next step after the initial phone call is to set up a time to visit with me personally. Come down to the school. Look around. Meet some of the teachers. **We would love to visit with you.**

I invite you to come and see. The experience will thrill and comfort you.

Sincerely,

Fred Versluys
Principal

P.S. We can only accept XX new students, currently. Since we are into the school year, we are already receiving new enrollment applications and need to weigh each one carefully, for working into the curriculum and classes. Please, if you are serious about your child joining this select group of students, don't delay.

Call My office today. . .(630)852-0832

I look forward to hearing from you.