



2010-2011 Frequently Asked Questions

123 White Oak Lane * Old Bridge, NJ 08857
Phone: 732-479-0700 * www.calvarychristianschool.net
Fax 732-679-1948 * school@calvarychristianschool.net
Principal Eric Morris

History & Plans

- History of CCS**—Calvary Christian School is a ministry of Calvary Chapel Old Bridge which has faithfully taught the Bible for over 20 years. As a result, many have benefited from our vision and purpose which is to **Win a person to Jesus Christ; Build a person up in Jesus Christ; Send a person for Jesus Christ.** For many years families have been praying that God would provide a local Christian school ministry at CCOB that would mirror the focus on discipleship. Upon this foundation of prayer, God has opened the doors for this school which began in 2005.
- Grades offered**—As God leads, we are committed to providing kindergarten through 10th grade this year, and adding at least one grade each year to 12th grade.
- Vision of CCS**—The vision of CCS is **Education by Discipleship.** A study of CCS's stated school mission, philosophy, and objectives reveals the heart of the school. CCS desires to be a school with high standards. Therefore, CCS is aligned with the professional standards imposed by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Association of Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS) and the Calvary Chapel Education Association (CCEA).

Daily Matters

- Security and school emergencies**—The safety of the students at CCS is high priority. Therefore, CCS has a full-time safety security director on duty, video cameras and has a fully locked down school during school hours. CCS has also consulted with professionals on the issue of security and an emergency management plan. Priority will be placed on the implementation of these recommendations and the training of staff prior to the first day of school. Specific security policies and the emergency management plan are referred to in the Parent-Student Handbook.
- School hours of operation**—The school year generally begins on the first Wednesday after Labor Day and closes in mid-June. The school day is 8:25am-3:00 pm. The complete school calendar will be mailed in the summer to all registered students and will be available on the CCS website.
- School dress policy**—Students in K-8th grade wear school uniforms obtained through Flynn & O'Hara (www.fando.net), while High School students wear school uniforms obtained through Land's End (www.landsend.com). Specific details will be provided upon acceptance to the school.
- Hot lunch program**—All students have the opportunity to purchase hot lunch which includes main entrée, snack and drink. Vending machines are also available for snacks before and after school.
- Chapel services**—All students will have a weekly chapel service. CCOB pastors, CCS teachers, and missionaries will lead this exciting time of Bible study and worship.
- Transportation information**—Your local school district may provide transportation if you reside within 20 miles of CCS. If your district elects not to provide bus transportation, then they will provide an annual reimbursement of about \$850 per student. Specific details will be in your registration packet upon acceptance to the school.
- Home education coordination**—Home education students are encouraged to be involved in chapel services, technology and arts classes, competitive and other after-school activities, middle/high school level course offerings, etc. We will communicate regularly with CCOB home-education group concerning these opportunities, fees, and related details.
- Health services**—A school nurse will be on duty during school hours. The health office maintains student health records, conducts basic health screening, and adopts policies and procedures for the care of students who are injured or become ill at school.
- Class size limits**—Kindergarten through 10th grade class size ranges from 18-24 students, staying near the 18-20 student range for kindergarten through second grade.
- Before/After Care**—Before and After Care is available between 7-8 am and 3-6 pm for a cost of \$2.50 per half hour or any amount thereof. Enrollment procedures are outlined in registration packet upon acceptance. Homework and structured activities will take place during this time.
- Kindergarten specifics**—Students must be age 5 by or around October 15. Five (full and half) day kindergarten programs are available. Families opting for half day kindergarten will leave at 1 pm.

CCS Admissions


- ✦ **Family admissions requirements**—The following Admissions Policy has been adopted to assure consistent standards of admission that are in agreement with the philosophy and purpose of Calvary Christian School.
 - ◆ At least one parent in the home has accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
 - ◆ Families must agree to sign a Parent Contract.
 - ◆ Student applicants must give every indication of potential success in the school’s academic program, based on past records, readiness tests, and interviews.
 - ◆ The committee will evaluate whether or not the resources of Calvary Christian School are able to address the needs of exceptional student learners.
 - ◆ Student applicants must give a satisfactory record of behavior and attendance.
 - ◆ Prospective Kindergarten students must be the age of 5 prior to October 15.
 - ◆ The Admissions Committee will provide notification of the prayer decision regarding the applicant.
 - ◆ We are committed to accepting students who are willing to grow in their walk with the Lord, and to comply with the school’s policies and purpose. Those who have demonstrated a history of rebellion or disobedience towards authority may be considered unready to enter the school. However, in such circumstances support for the family is available through the ministry of Calvary Chapel Old Bridge (CCOB). Our goal is to help families by creating opportunities for these students to demonstrate their readiness to be disciplined and reconsidered for admission to CCS.
- ✦ **New student probation**—All new students are automatically placed on probation during the first marking period. At the end of this period, if the probation period requires an extension, parents will receive communication. A family conference will be held to discuss matters of concern and determine a plan of action. Families are evaluated annually for continued enrollment. This process is in place so that a Bible-centered learning environment exists for all.


Academic Focus

- ✦ **Teacher credentials**—Our central focus is on the ministry of discipleship. Teachers at Calvary Christian School are required to have a Bachelor’s Degree in teaching, six credit hours in Bible, and a philosophy of Christian Education Course. CCS teachers who are interested in pursuing a higher degree receive an annual stipend to offset graduate tuition. The staff is also involved in ongoing in-service training days to address effectiveness in accomplishing the mission and objectives of CCS. Most important, however, is that each teacher is growing in their walk with the Lord so that the Spirit can lead in ministry.
- ✦ **Curriculum philosophy**—The aim of CCS is for most of the curriculum resources to be biblically based textbooks, with the Bible serving as the main text. Curriculum is comprised both of content, which is made available to students through text books and other learning materials, and the actual classroom experience as guided by the teacher. Therefore, our curriculum is not simply a textbook, but rather a school-created plan that stems from our mission statement and core beliefs. We believe this viewpoint will best allow us to accomplish our objectives according to our stated philosophy of learning. Curriculum materials are available for review at the school office.
- ✦ **Curriculum subjects**—Subjects taught at CCS include Bible, reading (phonics-based), writing, spelling/vocabulary, mathematics, science, social studies, computers, Spanish, music, art, PE/health, and ministry electives.
- ✦ **Special education services**—CCS is committed to increasing its’ resources to meet the needs of exceptional learners in future years. Compensatory instruction, speech therapy, supplemental instruction, and a child study evaluation are available. These services are granted through the Middlesex County Educational Services Commission (MCESC). Certified instructors from MCESC will be on the school premises to conduct these individualized programs if necessary.
- ✦ **Student guidance**—The elementary/homeroom classroom teacher is the primary source for guidance as they prayerfully work with the parents. The principal and assistant principal will be available to assist teachers and counsel students as needs arise. CCOB pastoral and women counselor support are also available.

Parental Focus

- ✦ **CCS communication**—A variety of tools, including weekly classroom reports, website and internet communications, report cards, interim reports, parent-teacher conferences, direct teacher access email and voicemail, will be used to help keep parents well informed.
- ✦ **“Biblical Parenting” class**—Biblical parenting classes are scheduled yearly, as available, to convey biblical principles that will mutually benefit the entire school family. It is our desire, as relationships are built between families, that you will share with, pray for, and encourage one another in God’s principles.
- ✦ **Parent Servant Program**—There are many opportunities for parents to get involved in the programs offered at CCS, such as lunchroom help, classroom parents, classroom aides, maintenance help, special speakers, events, etc.

 **Philosophy of Discipline**—Discipline, by definition, is the process of making disciples. Discipline is God-ordained in the life of a Christian. Proverbs 3:11-12 states, “*My son, do not despise the chastening (discipline) of the LORD, nor detest His correction; for whom the LORD loves He corrects.*” CCS understands that this is a progressive process whereby God gradually transforms each child’s heart through instruction, training, and correction. Learning begins with the loving discipline of parents teaching their children that, “*the fear (respect) of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom*” (Proverbs 9:10). One of the most important lessons for any student to learn is how to properly respond to authority, including their parents, teachers, and God. When discipline is necessary, CCS’s discipline standards are enforced prayerfully, lovingly, and consistently by communication with the students and with the parents using biblical guidelines to bring about correction and a change of heart. These policies are also in place to ensure that a proper learning environment exists for all students. It is of utmost importance that parents support the teacher in matters of discipline and equally crucial that parents are informed of any problem. CCS does not permit school staff to administer corporal punishment.

 **Conflict resolution**—God has given us specific guidelines in Scripture regarding the resolution of conflicts. Everyone involved in the CCS family is asked to follow these principles:

- ◆ Matthew 18:15-16—*Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.*
- ◆ Philippians 2:4—*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*
- ◆ Proverbs 11:13—*A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.*
- ◆ James 1:5—*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

The practical application of these truths is as follows:

- ◆ Pray about the matter before speaking to anyone. Allow God the opportunity to calm your spirit and give you specific wisdom on the matter.
- ◆ Do not talk to others about the individual(s) involved in the issue. If counsel needs to be sought, do so without revealing identities.
- ◆ Make an appointment to speak privately with the individual directly involved in the conflict. Give the individual opportunity to reflect on the issue, seek God’s perspective, and prepare for the conversation.
- ◆ If an appropriate resolution cannot be achieved in this initial meeting, schedule a meeting between the original parties and the next level of administration.
- ◆ This process continues as long as necessary with the ultimate resolution resting in the hands of the CCS School Board.