

Toronto District Christian High School: Mission, Vision and Focus 2017-18

Our mission is to be an intentional and God-honouring learning community.

Our vision is to be a community of learners who serve God and others through authentic and relevant Christ-centred education.

TDChristian High School's focus statement: *Learning for Service in the Light of God's Word.*

Learning at TDChristian takes place by **enfolding**, **engaging**, and **empowering** students.

Enfolding

Why? As God's image bearers, students matter. To live a life of service, students need to know themselves and be known. When students are accepted and accepting, and their talents, passions and gifts are recognized, they become important members of the school community. Such enfolding provides a firm foundation for learning.

How? From the initial family interview until graduation, we work diligently with students in uncovering and developing their God-given talents for service. We welcome them into multi-grade "family" homerooms in which they contribute, celebrate and grow. During the first week of Grade 9, students are brought into the TDChristian community while learning and serving on a two-day trip. During their time at TDChristian, students learn through rich experiences in diverse areas: academics, video, art, drama, music, athletics and wood shop. Throughout the school year, we challenge our students to cultivate their passions and develop their abilities while sharing their learning, especially through presentations.

Engaging

Why? Learning at TDChristian is for today, with an eye to tomorrow. A love of learning is fostered by piquing students' interests and taking into account their gifts. Creating room for students to have voice and choice in their learning produces determination, allows for healthy risk-taking, and brings about a rigorous depth of understanding. Additionally, engaged students develop grit, perseverance, and a strong work ethic.

How? Learning is stimulated and nurtured in our inviting and up-to-date physical and virtual learning spaces. However, it flourishes through the student-teacher relationship which we emphasize and foster. Our teachers are engaged in, passionate about and dedicated to their craft. In each learning opportunity, they assist students in sharing their findings in significant and relevant ways. Projects that emphasize skills such as creativity, collaboration, initiative, adaptability, information analysis, entrepreneurship, and effective oral and written communication are essential to learning at TDChristian. Students are pushed to become wisely discerning, to think and learn about how to conduct themselves and how to serve effectively in an ever-changing world.

Empowering

Why? For learning to be relevant and service-driven, TDChristian's walls must be permeable. Our desire is to connect our students authentically to life outside the institution by partnering with groups and organizations to grow the kingdom of God. We want our students to work actively with others, from getting their hands dirty to giving leadership willingly, so that they are a blessing to their communities and they are blessed in the process.

How? Students are empowered when they contribute to our vibrant community through student leadership opportunities and assemblies. Service trips, Focus Days, Project Days, and Internships immerse students in learning outside the building – integrating learning with life is paramount. Daily, we stretch students creatively, intellectually, and practically to impact all of God's creation including in athletics, the arts, drama, and robotics. Courses in Communications Technology and Entrepreneurship along with interdisciplinary blocks of learning in French & History, the environment, social justice and engineering complement a full range of courses. Our aim is to link students to outside organizations or places in which they can serve with their hearts and minds.

WHY SHOULD TDCHRISTIAN BE A PLACE OF **Learning for Service in the Light of God's Word?**

God rules over all creation and all areas of life.

Christian education points to God in all learning areas, as well as in attitudes and behaviour toward other human beings and the rest of creation. It is not confined to Bible class, assemblies, and daily homeroom devotions.

Jesus is the Redeemer of all that is broken, not only the Saviour of individuals.

The whole world has fallen, and so the whole world needs to be redeemed and restored: every person, place, organization, and program.

The Bible is God's Word and serves as the "spectacles" through which we view reality.

We attempt to examine all of life and creation through a biblical worldview. In doing so, we read the Bible as a continuous whole, contextually rather than in a proof-texting way.

Creation is the other "book" in which God shows us who he is.

We see God's fingerprints all over creation; its fundamental goodness shines through in spite of sin. The visible universe is like a beautiful book in which all creatures are like letters making us ponder the love, wisdom, and power of the invisible God.

Our responsibility for the care of our world is a fundamental part of God's plan for creation.

God created humankind to be caretakers of this world. He wired this purpose into our very beings and into the plan of creation itself. God will renew this world rather than destroy it; hence all actions to improve life on earth are worthwhile and God-honouring.

Christian education is not just about absorbing information; God requires us to respond.

We are "Learning for Service in the Light of God's Word," not merely passing on information; we hope to nurture in our students a love and awe for God and all he has created and a desire to express this in action. We recognize that students are on a lifelong journey; we look for authenticity and growth, not mere conformity to rules.

Our world belongs to God, not the evil one.

We aim to engage culture, not shy away from it, confident that God is in control. Students are being prepared "on the job" to develop discernment and take up their place as aware, informed shapers of God's world in a wide range of endeavours.

The line dividing good and evil runs through people and organizations rather than around them.

All human beings fall short of God's glory, and all reflect something of his image; good and bad, truth and falsehood, are found in the work of both Christians and non-Christians. Students are encouraged to critically examine books, media, political systems, scientific theories, and other aspects of culture for their worth and underlying values.

We believe in and foster community.

We seek to reflect a commitment to community in all our relationships. We work together to carry out the shared task of educating children through trust, dialogue, cooperation, giving, and service. In our sports, music, and other programs we aim to maximize participation rather than showcase only the most talented.

We celebrate the unique giftedness of each person by God for his purposes.

Students come with diverse gifts and learning styles and are called to different tasks in God's world. In designing our teaching and learning activities, as well as in all our interaction with students, we strive to help all of them develop their talents and abilities so they can serve and glorify God.

This document contains the mission, vision, focus and identity statements of

Toronto District Christian High School

*To really know about the school, and the learning that takes place, we invite you to come and visit
377 Woodbridge Avenue, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 2V7*