

OUR SCHOOL

Every year, for over four decades, we have had the opportunity of serving the Lord at Immanuel Christian Schools. What an honor and a privilege that is! As a community of Christians, we recognize that Immanuel is not our school but the Lord's school; we know that Immanuel is a gift from the Lord and a gift to be embraced and cherished. It is God's faithfulness that allows us to open the doors of Immanuel each year. Everything that happens at Immanuel is a reflection of who we are; faithful Christians who are only satisfied with an education that honors the Lordship of Jesus Christ by affirming His fundamental significance for all of life. The contemporary confession "Our World Belongs to Christ" summarizes what we strive for in education.

*In education we seek to acknowledge the Lord
By promoting schools and teaching
In which the light of His word shines in all of learning
Where students of whatever ability
Are treated as persons who bear God's image
And have a place in His plan.*

In response to God's faithfulness to us, we strive for educational excellence for all of our children in all areas including the fine arts (music, art, drama), academics, sports, vocational, etc. We also have an extensive resource and special needs program because we believe that all of our children, regardless of ability or gifts, are God's children. We deem our mission at Immanuel fulfilled if we provide opportunities for students to serve God with heart, soul and hands by integrating faith, academic excellence and service.

Our "measuring stick" for success is the faithfulness of everyone involved in meeting the school's mission "to provide a Christian environment in which God calls all His children to develop and use their gifts for joyful service in His Kingdom." We do not measure success as individuals but as community; a community that transcends generations because for us it is a life-long commitment. That commitment is purposefully carried out at Immanuel. At any given time, we can see at least three generations actively involved in Immanuel. Parents bring their children into kindergarten for the first time or help out in the various classrooms; at the same time grandparents are involved in noon hour clubs, noon hour supervision, and show an ongoing interest in the school by visiting or joining us for the grandparents' (seniors') tea. This is a living example of God's message through the prophet Joel and David (Psalm 78) where He urges parents to pass their history down to their children, by telling over and over the important lessons they learned. What a demonstration of the purpose and importance of Christian education – to help each generation obey God and set their hope on Him. The question can be asked; what are we doing to pass on the history of God's work to the next generation. It takes the life-long commitment of a community of parents and grandparents bonded together through prayer and mutual support, with a common vision of love and concern for Christian Education.

In this ever-increasing secular society of consumerism and individual choice, how do we want our children educated? If we are content with the direction of our post-modern society, this will pose no dilemma for us; any philosophy, godless or otherwise, will suffice. However, if we follow God's commands, then our covenant children must be educated in a Christ-centered approach to all of life. We can thank the Lord for His gift of Immanuel Christian Schools; the Lord continues to be with us.