

August 2020

Dear High School Parents,

It's a joy and privilege to be welcoming you to the 2020-2021 school year at SCHS! It is a real honor to work with you, your students, and the staff at Santiam Christian this year as we all strive together to continue to build up a school community whose mission is "both and." We want both high quality academics and deeply Biblical discipleship. We're planning to address both students' learning needs and the needs of their hearts. We intend to shape both minds and hearts. We target both understanding and skills, both knowledge and wisdom. We hope for success both in the immediate "now" of our children's lives, and in their eternities. It's a great calling and a great mission, and according to the Scriptures (see Psalm 127) an impossible one to truly achieve unless the Lord is involved and directing.

In my 32 years in Christian schooling, I've been richly blessed by observing the very strong foundations for life and living that are possible in the lives of teens who embrace the teaching and discipleship of the Christian school community, and so I'm deeply glad and grateful you've chosen SCHS for your student(s) this year – that you've chosen a school where indeed we ask the Lord to direct, to guide, and to be closely and personally involved.

Every school year features some changes – schools seek to improve, programs get adjusted, school personnel come and go from time to time – and of course this year "change" might be a good theme song! Though the coming year is likely to be quite different from the "norm," we're excited to jump in and make it happen! Some highlights:

- We're welcoming Mr. Luke Coomer and Ms. Heather Bellinger to our high school faculty – Mr. Coomer as our new agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, and Ms. Bellinger for drama. We're blessed to have both joining the team, and look forward to many opportunities for you to get to know them.
- We've adopted a 4-period, alternating-day schedule to facilitate both remote and in-person instruction with the current COVID guidelines.
- We've moved to every student having his or her own computer to facilitate the use of tools needed to support remote learning and in cooperation with guidelines for on-campus learning.
- We're prepared to start school remotely, and prepared also for in-person classes as soon as we are able to do that. Either way, we're prepared to engage students in another year of purposeful learning and joyful school community.

Whether this is your first year as an SC parent, or you've been part of the mission here for many years, I'm thrilled to say, "Welcome!" - and to again have the opportunity together to "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done." (Psalm 78:4)

Blessings for each family!

Erik Ritschard
HS Principal