



# The Vision

Imagine a Christian High School with a national purpose.

Near the capital of the most powerful nation on earth.

Equipping young people with the finest Christian education yet imagined.

A place where faith in God is nurtured and strengthened.

Where we listen and wrestle with hard questions together.

Where students learn how to think critically about the great issues of our day.

A place where intellectual and religious freedom is celebrated.

Where America's founding principles are studied from original writings and documents — not trendy narratives.

Where students engage in real life experiences as part of the classroom.

Imagine a Christian High School like this all across the nation.

A beacon of hope for the future.

Lighting the Way for tomorrow's global leaders.

# The Problem

Things have changed in America.

It was once common to celebrate our freedom of religion and the right of every American to live, learn and worship according to the dictates of their conscience. Now our culture has become a place where it's acceptable — even fashionable — to ridicule and discriminate against people of faith. Particularly those of Christian faith.

This culture shift has been seismic — especially within our education system.

Not so long ago, public school students were united in learning the remarkable faithbased origins of our country. Now America's history is being rewritten and taught from what is ironically called "a more relevant" perspective — one that portrays America as a racist, sexist and unjust nation.

Today's young people are forming life-long opinions by the time they are just 16 and 17 years of age. Yet they are not learning in these years how to think critically for

> themselves. Instead they are being told what they must think in order to pass a test or avoid ridicule.

Meanwhile, our public school graduates lag behind those of other nations in basic academics. Instead of being truly educated, our children are being funneled through a system that is increasingly filled with moral relativism, socialism and secular humanism.

Studies show as many as 75% of Christian students will abandon their faith during high school and college.

Students are not learning in the formative years of high school how to think deeply about faith from a biblical and historical perspective. Nor are they learning how to

think critically about civics, science, culture, technology, religious freedom and so many other pressing issues facing our society.

This failure is having a *national* impact.

It will only get worse until we provide solutions that address the root problem.

"FREEDOM IS NEVER MORE THAN ONE GENERATION AWAY FROM EXTINCTION."

- Ronald Reagan



The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation is the philosophy of government in the next.

# **The Solution**

Immanuel Christian High School has a bold new vision for high school education that will be a solution to this crisis, and a role model for other Christian and college preparatory schools as we equip students for the future.

Our vision is built on four key pillars of educational development that hold up a unique and exciting curriculum:

### **FAITH**

Believing the truth by hearing and doing what is true.

### **KNOWLEDGE**

Knowing the truth and how it can be verified.

### **THINKING**

Using the truth carefully and strategically.

### COMMUNICATION

Sharing the truth effectively and creatively.

A comprehensive and ambitious campaign to fulfill this vision will:

- Prepare the next generation to address the most complex social, economic, scientific and moral issues of our day.
- Develop new paradigms for teaching and learning.
- Design best practices for college preparatory education.
- Broaden our reach through online education resources.
- Strengthen our nation by equipping our students to become the great thinkers, innovators, entrepreneurs, statesmen and faith leaders of tomorrow.

Lighting the Way for Tomorrow's Leaders will accomplish this vision on three fronts:

### Student Achievement

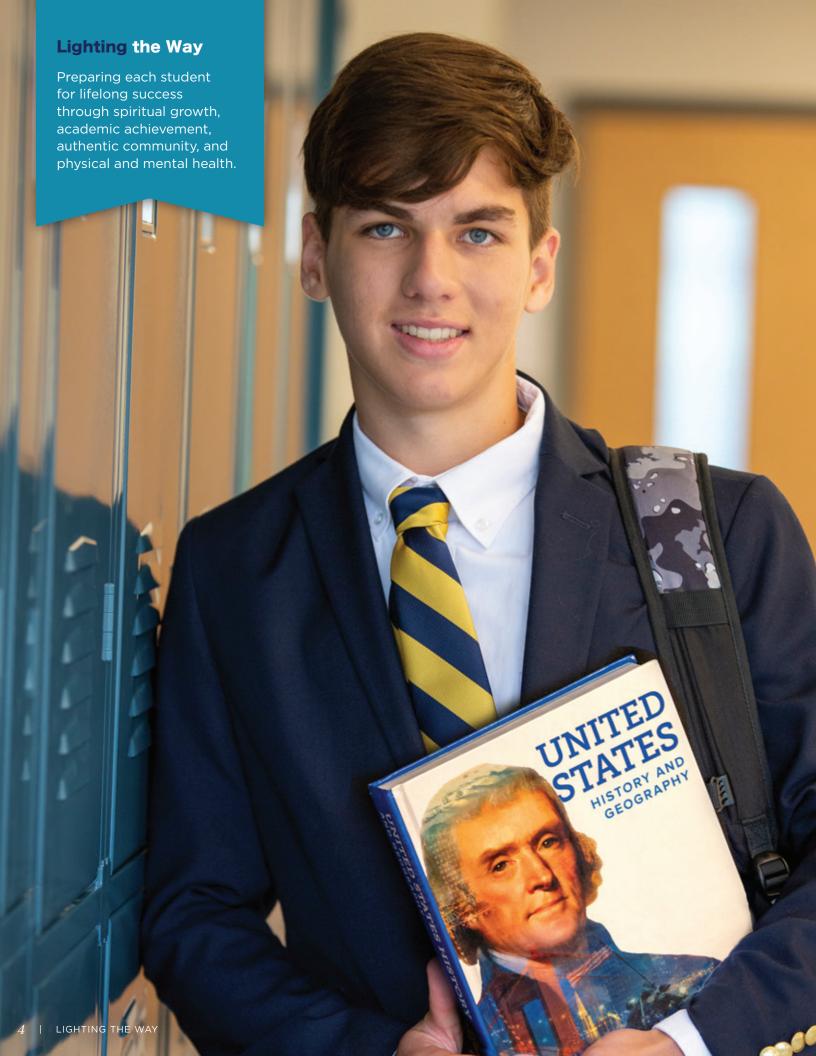
Our investment in Winterims Abroad, advanced "Life as a Classroom" opportunities, worldview dialogues and more will give students the perspective and tools they need to contribute to society in the most powerful and meaningful ways.

## **Exceptional Faculty**

Our faculty are dynamic men and women with reallife experience in their field, highly credentialed and dedicated to personally mentoring every student to fulfill their God-given potential.

### Academic Environment

Immanuel Christian High School's campus will not only add new capabilities and capacity, it will also be a unique and innovative facility designed to fan the flame of learning both individually and collaboratively.



# Student Achievement

The world children face today is dramatically different from the one faced just a generation ago. To prepare today's students to serve Christ in this competitive, global world of the 21st century, Immanuel Christian is committed to the highest level of academic excellence...and also to expanding our reach to attract the most promising Christian youth from across the nation and around the world.

Named as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, ICHS is proud to be the only K-12 Christian school with this distinction inside the beltway of our nation's capital.

More than accolades, however, we seek to create in each student the desire to be curious, informed, authentic, faithful, compassionate, discerning and committed to excellence...for a lifetime.

Our "secret sauce" is a customized and exciting curriculum that not only prepares students for college with a classic liberal arts education, but also equips them with the knowledge, experience and skills they will need to become culture-shaping leaders — in college and beyond.

### To ensure student achievement, ICHS will:

1	Establish a distinctive high school academic program that is unparalleled in its opportunity, excellence and biblical worldview.
2	Invest in programs that enrich the lives of our students, including unique Winterims Abroad, advanced "Life as a Classroom" opportunities, a premier health and fitness program, advanced STEM modules and more.
3	Foster a high-achieving and vibrant campus community by recruiting and supporting outstanding students from the area and around the world.



**BLUE RIBBON STATUS** IS CONFERRED ON BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS WITH DEMONSTRATED SUPERIORITY IN THEIR ACADEMIC PROGRAM, CONSISTENTLY HIGH SCORES ON STANDARDIZED TESTING ACROSS ALL GRADES, RELEVANCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY, AND ARTICULATE, FORWARD-LEANING GUIDANCE FROM THE SCHOOL'S LEADERSHIP. IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WAS ONE OF ONLY 50 PRIVATE SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD IN 2015.

### The ICHS curriculum includes six distinctives

### Interdisciplinary Biblical Worldview

The primary goal in high school is to help each student answer three of the most important questions of life: Does God exist? Has he communicated with us? And is there a way to know him? Carefully crafted curriculum weaves these questions throughout every subject, giving students the opportunity to explore, discover, wrestle with, and internalize the answers through a rich and diversified coursework. Time is taken on a daily basis to not only continue the practice of diligently studying God's Word but also to discuss, think through, and apply these principles to the content students are

studying. The goal is to train up a generation of culture leaders, not culture followers. Rather than being swept away by the dangerous currents of popular consensus, ICHS students are taught to critically evaluate the influences of secular culture from a comprehensive foundation of Judeo-Christian thought and historical understanding.

### Mentorship/Advisory Program

Intentional time is set aside every week to support, challenge, and guide each student. Every student connects with an individual faculty member on a weekly basis for academic, social, emotional, and spiritual guidance. In a day and age when students struggle to feel seen and heard, Mentorship/Advisory time offers valuable, consistent, and personalized attention. This is also a time where faculty will help each student look outside of themselves in order to serve others at school, at church, in the community and beyond.

### **Authentic Community**

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E WAY

At the heart of every human being is the desire to be known and to know others in a deep and authentic manner. We have a vibrant community of faculty and staff who love God, are committed to professional excellence, and who desire to invest into the lives of students. We value the formal and informal moments during the four years of high school that lead to deep and abiding friendships. Our aim is to be a place where deliberation and questions are welcomed, where opposing views are debated with respect and civility, and where students are encouraged to apply critical thought to every truth claim.

### **Customized Academic Program**

ICHS has advanced and accelerated course options for our student body as well as those who participate via homeschool. The School also has a rich and varied curriculum that includes life skills and real-world experience. Our trimester schedule allows more opportunities for students to explore exciting electives, including fine arts and world languages, of their own choosing. For those who need additional support in learning, an individualized plan gives them access to the structured help they need to continue to flourish academically as independent learners.

### **Athletics and Lifetime Fitness**

We allow our high school students the unique opportunity to choose their own form of exercise through a partnership with The St. James, a local recreation center just two miles from campus boasting 450,000 square feet of athletic opportunity. Every staff member and student will receive a membership to The St. James where we will host all of our Varsity and JV athletic practices, games and workouts. Boasting an expansive FIFA size indoor turf field, two ice rinks, four basketball courts, nine volleyball courts, an Olympic-size swimming pool, batting cages, rock walls, squash courts, golf simulators, and more, the St. James is a place where every student can customize their own health and fitness program, 24/7. Our athletic teams will get to practice in the most state-of-the-art

### that help students achieve at the highest levels:

location while also gaining access to off-season opportunities to continue their improvement year-round. We believe in the invaluable life-lessons that sports can teach students, lessons that simply cannot be taught in the classroom: how to work together as a team to achieve a common goal, how to give God the honor and glory in victory, and how to trust in the Lord's sovereignty in defeat and pick each other up in moments of loss. A partnership with the St. James allows us to champion those beliefs by providing students with an elite facility.

### Unique "Life as a Classroom" **Experiences**

Strategically located just 7 minutes from the nation's capital, our area is replete with historical, cultural, scientific, and commercial opportunities. ICHS leverages this amazing location as an extension of the traditional classroom and a gateway to ignite life-long learning in our students. Some of the unique experiences include:

### **WINTERIMS ABROAD**

The ICHS Winterim Abroad is a condensed semester that happens during the month of January but is carefully woven into the curriculum of the entire year. After a week of intensive coursework including history, geography, Bible, and practical life skills, the lessons literally fly out of the classroom and travel into real life when students and faculty journey into a 10-day adventure abroad to expand their biblical, literary and historical perspectives. Winterim Abroad covers a semester of study providing all students with additional credits to complete Advanced Diploma requirements. This immersive education is fast paced and unparalleled — as students get to see, taste, and experience first-hand what they are studying. A Winterim Expo following each session allows them to compile and present what they studied abroad as scholarly research with experience.

**Year 1:** The Reformation: England & Scotland

**Year 2:** Ancient Civilizations: Italy

**Year 3:** Serving Others: Africa

Year 4: Foundations of Our Faith: Israel

### **FINE ARTS MODULE**

Global leaders must be knowledgeable of fine arts, both nationally and internationally. The year-long Fine Arts module helps students learn about, create, and showcase the excellence of the masters in each of the six fine arts: painting, sculpture, architecture, music, theater, and dance.

### STEM MODULE

To be competitive in today's world, every student needs a basic, and at times in-depth, exploration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The year-long STEM module allows students to design projects based in actual professions like robotics, pioneering a simulated colony on Mars, and engineering a theme park. The module culminates with a STEM Symposium providing a stage to present research as well as a place to speak to the important ethical decisions that must be made as we innovate for the future.

### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP MODULE**

The formation of new businesses is vital to the growth of the economy, here in the US and globally. This yearlong module allows students to learn the basics of everything from personal finance to running a business. As they design and implement a viable business model from concept to market (like Shark Tank), they gain an experiential appreciation of freemarket capitalism.

### **INTERNSHIPS/EXTERNSHIPS**

After a yearlong exploration of each fine arts, STEM, and entrepreneurship module, students may participate in internship or externship placements in a selected area of interest for their senior year. This provides students with valuable experience and distinction as they move on to a university or a career.



"OUR MISSION IS TO RAISE GLOBAL LEADERS WHO CAN COMBAT THIS CULTURE RIGHT NOW — AND THE WAY YOU RAISE A GLOBAL LEADER IS TO SHOW THEM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. WHAT IS IT LIKE IN AFRICA? WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN ANCIENT ITALY? WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN ISRAEL? WE ARE TAKING THESE KIDS AND HAVING THEM WALK WHERE THIS HISTORY ACTUALLY HAPPENED, IT'S A PHENOMENAL MODEL AND SOMETHING I GOT EXCITED TO DO THE FIRST TIME I HEARD ABOUT IT."

- Karen Pence

## **Lighting the Way**

Building a culture of transformative thinking and unparalleled innovation.

$$a(\omega) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \cdot \cos(\omega t)$$

Astrophysicist Mary Beth De Repentigny currently teaches Environmental Science, Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, and serves as STEM Module — Science Fair Mentor.

# **Exceptional** Faculty

The heart of a great school is its faculty.

Every student can fall in love with learning if they have teachers who are both accomplished in their field of discipline and gifted at making learning fun. The ICHS faculty is marked by teaching professionals like this. They are great educators who are able to share enduring truths in powerful ways that engage and inspire their students.

Exceptional faculty like this are the most valuable asset of an Immanuel Christian education because these teaching professionals know how to integrate faith and learning into every subject area. The freedom to convey the eternal values of Judeo-Christian faith lies at the foundation of American heritage.

### To attract and retain an exceptional faculty, ICHS will:

1	Attract the best teachers from all disciplines with the establishment of competitive pay scales, merit pay and endowed programs;
2	Invest in the best and most current teaching resources and technologies to advance scholarship and learning;
3	Pursue scholarship that applies the timeless principles of a Christian worldview to the pressing social, scientific, environmental, moral, and political issues of the world;
4	<b>Develop new paradigms for teaching</b> and design a best practices framework for Christian high school education across the nation.



**OUR FACULTY'S** INVALUABLE SKILL LINKS REAL-WORLD **EXPERIENCE WITH** THE CREDENTIALS OF ACADEMIA SO THAT A LIFE-LONG PASSION FOR LEARNING IS IGNITED IN OUR STUDENTS. THEY CONNECT WITH STUDENTS DAILY TO FOSTER HEALTHY HABITS OF COMMUNICATION AND CITIZENSHIP, AND SPIRITUALLY CULTIVATE A FAITH THAT WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

- Rachel Reno. High School Principal



# **Academic Environment**

Immanuel Christian High School is building the future — literally and functionally.

Nestled in a quiet residential area adjacent to 3.9 acres of Fairfax County parkland, the ICHS campus is a commercial building that has been acquired and transformed into a beautiful space that celebrates the future and invites academic excellence, creativity, discovery, and innovation.

In an area with almost no available land, ICHS leveraged the opportunity available with commercial property and reclaimed this real estate for educational purposes — a move that is becoming increasingly popular among education systems nationwide. ICHS then contracted with the award-winning architectural firm of Cooper Carry whose specialty lies in unlocking the potential of this kind of space for education.

The ICHS campus will add new capabilities and capacity as we educate the hearts and minds of tomorrow's leaders, strategically located just seven short minutes from Washington, D.C. — home to our national leaders and America's historical foundations.

### To create an innovative learning environment, ICHS will:

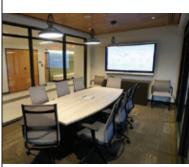
**Build premier academic facilities** to house and support our unique academic offerings, to elevate fine arts, STEM and entrepreneurship modules, and to provide a headquarters for Winterim Abroad educational travel.

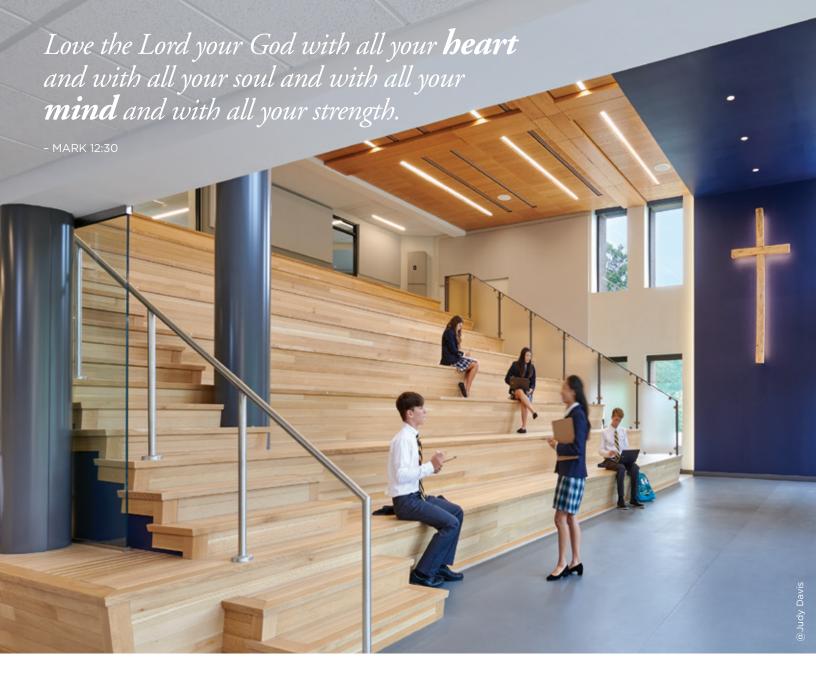
**Design academic spaces** that unite disciplines and encourage collaboration.

Construct a "High School without walls" as we make online curriculums available for homeschool classrooms and other Christian schools around the world. These Innovative Virtual Learning Communities will pave the way for students all across America and around the world to join ICHS.









### The Heart & Mind Center

The Learning Stairs, at the heart of the building, are adorned with a single wooden cross from founding church, Immanuel Bible Church. These stairs link the second and third floors, literally and symbolically.

This light-filled lyceum is where daily worldview and apologetics discussions will be held, where faculty and students will study the Bible together, where students will hang out and talk each day, and where guest speakers from around the world will come to address our students and community.

It is the centerpiece of spiritual, social and academic growth for our students — and is appropriately called the Heart & Mind Center.

The 2nd and 3rd of four floors have already been brilliantly reshaped into an innovative learning space that brings light, functionality, nature, community and efficiency into every lab and classroom.



The four goals of an **Immanuel Christian** education will be emblazoned on the pillar of each building floor.

Floor 1

Believing the truth by hearing and doing what is true

Floor 2

### KNOWLEDGE

Knowing the truth and how it can be verified

Floor 3

### HINKING

Using the truth carefully and strategically

### COMMUNICATION

Sharing the truth effectively and creatively

With strategic funding, the remaining First and Fourth floors will be built out to include a physics lab, another college-level STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lab to include 3D printers and other machinery for students to work in robotics and other technology-driven ventures, fine arts and other classrooms.

The ROOFTOP is being reimagined to house one of the country's only student-run high school observatories. With excellent, unobstructed views of the night sky, the objective is to train students to operate the large, permanently mounted telescope and observation dome, equipped with digital imaging capability to reveal deep sky objects far beyond what can be seen with the unaided eye. The rooftop will also feature a greenhouse for teaching biology, botany, and sustainable agricultural practices. A portion of the roof will provide an outdoor classroom and large multipurpose activity deck.

The beautiful woods and stream surrounding the campus afford an opportunity for students to participate in natural parklands preservation. Students will learn the science and practical skills involved in protecting the local rivers and streams while understanding its impact upon local habitat, the wider community, and the regional Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Advancement in STEM and fine arts will require the purchase of the twin office building on this site for additional classroom, laboratory, and studio space. The second building will allow us to run Summer Institutes for students from all across the nation and world who could experience a condensed version of the same STEM, Fine Arts, and Entrepreneurial Modules that we run during the year. A skyway connecting the two buildings would finish the campus and allow full capacity for as many as 400 on-campus students.



### **Student Scholarship Fund**

There is no other high school program like the one offered at Immanuel Christian.

This is an unparalleled opportunity that should be available to any deserving student, regardless of financial background. Scholarship funding makes this opportunity possible and extends the circle of student recruitment both geographically and economically.

Sustaining and growing this community will require a commitment to make such an innovative educational opportunity affordable and available to all who seek it.

Who will be the Ben Carson, Billy Graham, Condoleeza Rice, and Truett Cathy of tomorrow? ICHS is committed to shaping these kinds of iconic leaders for the future.

### **National Best Practices Institute**

How do we change the high school education experience for America's students?

We believe the Immanuel model is one that can be replicated in the D.C. Metro area, across the nation and around the world.

Educators will be invited to visit the ICHS campus in person and provided with online resources for professional engagement with ICHS educators, visiting instructors, exchange programs, workshops and seminars.

Best Practice topics would include everything from Facility Innovation, Foreign Languages, and Biblical Worldview to Winterim Abroad and other Life as a Classroom Experiences.

### **Innovative Virtual Learning** Communities

Never has technology been more important than in this new COVID-19 environment.

ICHS seeks to be a curriculum provider for Christian and homeschooled students around the world, beginning with at least two important curriculum efforts:

### An Interdisciplinary Biblical Worldview Curriculum

We believe God is calling us to change the paradigm for education nationally and internationally, using technology to connect students to world-class educators and thought leaders. The next generation must be better prepared to engage with the most aggressive and pernicious ideologies of society. Immanuel Christian believes this is done, not by driving the world out of its classrooms, but by bringing it in and critically evaluating every truth claim from a biblical and historical perspective.

In addition to partnering with biblical worldview providers like Summit Ministries and Axis Culture Translation, ICHS will hire and prepare a team of educators, well-trained and well-equipped — who think, study and teach their disciplines, critically and strategically.

### Character-In-Action Curriculum

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." ICHS seeks to broaden the reach of our excellent **Character-In-Action** (CIA) curriculum, which we have been using for more than 10 years, to other Christian schools and homeschool students around the world. Our young people need to be DOERS of the Word, and not just hearers of it — and this curriculum is an excellent way for students to learn how to inculcate important character traits day to day. This Character-in-Action curriculum gives students the opportunity to practice unique service projects where faith becomes action.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

### Why is there a need for a National Christian High School?

The public education system is broken. Christian high schools vary in competence, price and availability. And while many families may opt for homeschooling, this is not possible for many students. Having a NATIONAL Christian High School with over 40 years of success in K-8 education that is dedicated to meeting the needs of not just today's students, but of TOMORROW'S leaders, is paramount.

### How can this campaign fix the problem in education?

Romans 8:21 says to not be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good. That's what ICHS is doing ... overcoming a broken system with one that is BETTER in every respect — from the innovative facility use to the unique curriculum to the exceptional faculty.

### Why is it important to reach young people in high school?

Studies show that today's young people are forming life-long opinions by the time they are just 16 and 17 years of age. New studies show many Christian students are also abandoning their faith during these critical years. Yet at Immanuel Christian High School, we believe these students have never learned how to think deeply or critically from all sides about the important issues of our day. For example, in the early 1900s, students entering the 8th grade were expected to pass an exam that most college students and even adults today could not pass. We must educate our young people far sooner and better than we are today.

### How will Immanuel Christian High School serve as a role model for other Christian high schools across the nation?

This unique and unparalleled Christian curriculum will be made available in parts to other Christian high schools and homeschool classrooms around the world. ICHS will also host a Best Practices National Institute each year that convenes educators and visiting instructors as we share the "secret sauce" to making this kind of unique curriculum available everywhere. With adequate funding, ICHS would love to replicate this high school in other strategic locations throughout the nation.

### How will you handle COVID-19?

ICHS opened to in-person learning (with social distance requirements) in August 2020, but will follow state and federal guidelines if this changes. Immanuel Christian School successfully pivoted every grade and class to online learning on the first day of schools being shut down due to COVID-19. While ICHS will always prefer in-person classroom instruction to online methods, our quick and successful pivot to online helped every student finish well in the 2019/2020 school year. This was in stark contrast to many public schools in the D.C. Metro area and beyond. We believe there is great promise with future online learning opportunities.

# **Campaign Priorities**

Five-year budget

Student Achievement > \$21	million
Winterim Abroad Scholarships	\$7.7 MILLION
Student Scholarship Fund	\$3.9 MILLION
STEM/Fine Arts/Entrepreneurship	\$2.85 MILLION
Athletics and Lifetime Fitness	\$3.7 MILLION
Summer Leadership Institute	\$1 MILLION
Innovative Individualized Education	\$1.85 MILLION
Exceptional Faculty > \$6	million
Faculty Recruitment and Retention	\$3.4 MILLION
Interdisciplinary Biblical Worldview Curriculum	\$1.5 MILLION
National Best Practices Institute	\$1.1 MILLION
Academic Environment > \$38 Capital	million
First Building and Renovations	\$16.5 MILLION
First Building and Renovations  Second Building and Renovations	\$16.5 MILLION \$17.3 MILLION
Second Building and Renovations	\$17.3 MILLION

Detailed program budgets available. ICHS receives no government funding.

# THE OPPORTUNITY IS NOW



Experts predict a mass exodus from public education into private and homeschool options – especially after COVID-19 and the experience so many families are having with the failings and disservice of public education.

Now is the time to establish a National Christian High School.

If we as a nation don't invest now in raising up young people who know how to apply critical thought to cultural trends and ideas - there will not be great thought and faith leaders for tomorrow.

Now is the time to establish a National Christian High School.

Immanuel is the ONLY Blue Ribbon, distinctly Christian, high school inside the beltway of the nation's capital. Students in this strategic area — and beyond — need a college preparatory school grounded in biblical worldview, able to train them to know and share the truth effectively and creatively in today's culture.

Now is the time to establish a National Christian High School.



With strategic investment, we can leverage our impact to train and prepare thousands of Christian young people here and around the world to become the great thought and faith leaders of tomorrow.

— Stephen Danish, Head of School

Now is the time to invest in a vision that will move beyond the broken and outdated public education system . . . and beyond most Christian high schools too.

Now is the time to establish a National Christian High School with the purpose of raising up the great thinkers, explorers, innovators, entrepreneurs, artists and faith leaders of tomorrow.

Join us in lighting the way for tomorrow's global leaders.



"All three of our children attended Immanuel Christian through the 8th grade — I wish they could have come here for high school, but it didn't exist then. Now it does. And there's never been a better time, here in our nation's capital, to have a National Christian high school — lighting the way for tomorrow's leaders.

- Karen Pence

Karen and I highly recommend Immanuel and their vision. I have every confidence these students are going to become great leaders for our nation and for the world. It's the right answer at just the right time."

- Mike Pence

# IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

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