



DEER CREEK ▼

PRIDE

Fall / Winter 2016

Mission

Deer Creek Christian School partners with families to help children grow in **Academics, Faith, and Character** for Kingdom service.



PRINCIPAL'S POST

NEW DAY AT DEER CREEK

by Brian Verwolf
Head of School

Just days ago, I walked down the hallway side-by-side with a new 4th-grade girl. She asked, "Mr. Verwolf, is that recess lady going to be here tomorrow?"

There was hope and expression in her eyes, and I replied, "Why do you ask that?"

She smiled, "She has the same passion for us as my new teachers."

The same passion for us. What a profound compliment observed by a new student only weeks into the school year!

When I consider God's work through Deer Creek, it is stories like these that crystallize the vision God has given us. He is in the details—the "recess lady," the pick-up/drop-off system, the way

we recognize paw-sitive student character, and so much more.

We are beginning to settle into our new campus (Glory be to God!). With 30 new families representing 38 students, a devoted group of returning parents, and an extraordinary staff, we partner together this year with a grand focus on re-shaping culture. This is the calling we want to pass on to the students we serve in the south suburbs of Chicago.

Welcome to the Deer Creek Pride, Fall 2016 edition. Our hope is that you will see Jesus through these pages, and that our mission to partner with families to help children grow in Academics, Faith, and Character for Kingdom service will ring more true than ever. 🐾

DEER CREEK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool–8th grade
330 W. Highland Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
deer creek.org
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 [facebook.com/DeerCreekChristianSchool](https://www.facebook.com/DeerCreekChristianSchool)

FAMILY FUN NIGHT November 18

(Check deer creek.org/events for upcoming meetings, activities, sports schedules, and more!)

FOR OUR NEIGHBOR

by Steve Blom, Development Director



I have to confess something. I haven't always been sold on the value of Christian Education. At the risk of oversimplifying the matter, I'll tell you why: My concern was that Christian

education was a tool used to isolate one group of people from another, either by denominational restrictions or through economic barriers.

Much of my perspective has changed over the past six years, in large part due to our experience with Deer Creek. When my family first came to Deer Creek, we were

attracted to the missional aspect of the school, a policy inviting anyone to participate regardless of faith or denomination affiliation.

That is the first half of the equation, but what about the second? What do we do about the cost and making sure it doesn't stand in the way of a family enrolling their child? If we really believe in the academic, social, spiritual and cultural value of an education centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ making all things new, then shouldn't we work tirelessly to make sure it is affordable for our neighbor as well?

Yes.

This is where you come in. **We are committed to making an education at Deer Creek affordable for any family who desires this for their child, and we need your help to do this.** There are two different ways you can give:

- 1. Envelope.** Included with this newsletter is a donation envelope. You can fill out the necessary information for a check or credit card donation, and mail it to us.
- 2. Online.** We have created a convenient, new giving page at deercreek.org/giving where you can choose to give a recurring monthly or one-time gift using credit card.

In case you think a small gift can't make a difference, consider this: if each person reading this newsletter gave \$10/month or \$120/year, that would equal \$60,000. That's enough to provide Tuition Assistance to 40 students at Deer Creek!

Will you partner with each other and us in really living out this mission we share? ♥

A Deer Creek education is vibrant, expansive, practical, and creative. It's a unique opportunity to prepare a new generation of students to make a difference in the world. Your gifts extend opportunities by enabling us to offer tuition discounts. Visit our new online giving options at deercreek.org/giving

Full tuition: \$5,904



Maximum discount: \$1,476 (25%)

A STRONG FOUNDATION TO BUILD ON

by Patrick Murday,
Class of 2010

After my time at Deer Creek, I went to Marian Catholic High School, where I was a member of the tennis team, graduated valedictorian, and participated in community service—from PADS to St. James in Chicago Heights. I continued my education at my dream school, the University of Notre Dame.

At Notre Dame I have been able to stay active in the community, serving at St. Joseph's Hospital in a low-income family healthcare clinic, and working at *La Casa de Amistad* to help immigrants prepare for their citizenship exams. Within the Notre Dame community, I serve on the student government's Executive Board. In fact, I am writing this article from Puebla, Mexico, where I am taking a semester abroad.

My majors include pre-med and Spanish, both of which give me the opportunity to learn in and out of the classroom. I have rotations twice a week in the local hospitals, where I receive



Atop Peña de Bernal in Mexico, Patrick takes a break from his studies.

great exposure to Spanish *and* medicine! I hope to become a pediatrician and reach out to less fortunate communities in the Chicagoland area.

Deer Creek laid down a strong academic foundation for me that I continue to build on to this day. It also challenged me to mature in my faith, something I have found to be increasingly important in a world as chaotic as ours.

Deer Creek helped me become the scholar and man of faith and service that I am today. I'm forever grateful for that. With Deer Creek's faculty and community, I'm sure this mission for the students continues today. Thank you Deer Creek! ♥

Deer Creek graduates, we'd love to hear from you! Please email us and share where you are and what you're doing: info@dccsonline.org.



FAITH

CENTERED IN CHRIST

by Linda Miller,
Spiritual Life Director

This year appears to be a “year of change”—new school site, new families, new team members, and new opportunities! These

changes have the potential to cause stress, and that's why our theme this year—Centered in Christ—is so timely.

“And do not be conformed to this world any longer with its superficial values and customs, but be transformed



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CENTERED IN CHRIST, **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3**

and progressively changed as you mature spiritually, by the renewing of your mind, focusing on Godly values and ethical attitudes, so that you may prove (for yourselves) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect in His plan and purpose for you.”
Romans 12:2 (AMP)

To experience true transformation and a life centered in Christ, it is imperative that we:

1. **Know God's Word.** As we read God's Word, teach it to our children, and apply it in our daily lives, we will experience transformation and reflect the nature of Christ. Our behaviors, decisions and outlook will become Christ-like.

2. **Be positive Christian role models.** Today's generation is more exposed than we were to influences of all kinds. Our children can hold in the palm of their hand information, images, and opinions that have the potential to shape their worldview and ultimately affect their behavior and outcome in life. It is incumbent upon us as parents, school leaders, teachers, and the school community to be positive Christian role models and to protect ourselves and our children from unhealthy influences. Proverbs 4:23 instructs: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

3. **Connect with our Creator!**
The manufacturer knows the

product better than anyone else. God made us—He knows His purpose for our lives. As we pray, read the Word, and apply it, we will learn His perfect will and purpose for our lives amidst any worldly influence or distraction.

It is my hope that you will join us this year as we commit to being Centered in Christ. As the Deer Creek family continues to grow in the knowledge of God's Word, and as we become positive Christian role models for our children, and as we stay connected in relationship to God and each other, we will be able to prove what is the perfect will of God for ourselves, our community, and our world. 🍀