



DEER CREEK

# PRIDE

Winter / Spring 2017

## Mission

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

## PRINCIPAL'S POST

# CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION: DOES IT MATTER?

by Brian Verwolf,  
Head of School

Here's a bold statement coming from a guy who loves Christian Education: God has no need for faith-based schools.

Let me explain, God has no need for faith-based schools *unless they are intentionally different from the mass of other schools*. State-ordained curriculum, state-certified teachers and administrators, athletic programs whose importance tops academics—all this with some Bible instruction sprinkled on top? That's not different enough. God expects faith-based schools to stand apart. God expects distinctiveness, and He calls us to discipleship.

We celebrate our creativity, our curiosity, our sense of wonder,

and our ability to learn more about ourselves and our God through social studies, art, math, science, history, and language. Our students are taught that they bear the image of God, that they are the future of our community, that they are collaborators in the Kingdom. So the question Deer Creek and all Christian schools must wrestle with is not either/or, but both/and: *How can we be both Academically Excellent and Christ-exalting?*

We know that every Christian school thinks Christian education is important, but I believe Deer Creek is more intentional than most. And we've dedicated this issue of our newsletter to sharing some solid examples of what we call "the Deer Creek difference." Keep reading to see how Deer Creek makes Christian education the right investment for our kids in the south suburbs of Chicago. 🇺🇸



## DEER CREEK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool–8th grade  
330 W. Highland Drive  
Chicago Heights, IL 60411  
[deer creek.org](http://deer creek.org)  
708-672-6200

 [facebook.com/DeerCreekChristianSchool](https://www.facebook.com/DeerCreekChristianSchool)

**OPEN HOUSE:**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 6:00-8:00P**  
(Check [deer creek.org/events](http://deer creek.org/events) for upcoming meetings, activities, sports schedules, and more!)

## THE DEER CREEK DIFFERENCE: THOUGHTS FROM A TEACHER

# A STABLE VOICE IN A NOISY WORLD

by Randi Chambers, Middle-School Science and Math



Mrs. Chambers sees Deer Creek as a setting that encourages teachers, students, and families to engage in a mission greater than themselves. Her goal as a teacher is to cultivate confidence, discipline, and thoughtfulness in her students, so they will be equipped to make a difference in the world.



"Deer Creek thoroughly prepared me for the academic rigor of high school."

All of us have a way in which we see the world, its inhabitants, and ourselves. Life experiences, culture, growing knowledge, and society shape our worldview. In turn, our worldview also

shapes our perspective of these elements.

With the ever-changing climate of public opinion that our children are subjected to on a 24-hour, minute-by-minute, second-by-second basis, there is a need for a stable, unwavering voice. This is where Christian education plays a vital role. When implemented well, it has the power to transform the hearts and minds of our young people to see themselves, others, and the world

through the lens of God's truth.

Christian education is more than simply "Christian" teachers in a "Christian" school, teaching from textbooks with "Christian language." Christian education is about challenging and empowering students to understand how God is alive and active in them, through them, and around them in all subject matter because He is the Creator of the Universe. It enables them to see how God has revealed Himself to us in His creation. It applies Biblical knowledge and wisdom to know that there is a way that might seem right to society, but that God's ways are higher. It teaches and models God's grace, mercy, truth, and love.

With this kind of exposure, Christian education will impact students' thoughts, words, and actions within every interaction, every decision, and every situation. Christian ed matters! ♥

## THE DEER CREEK DIFFERENCE: THOUGHTS FROM AN ALUMNUS

# ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

by Steven Harrison, 2010 Graduate

I was the third member of my family to graduate from Deer Creek Christian School, attending from 1999–2010. After graduation, I attended Waubonsie Valley High School from 2010–2014. Currently, I am in my junior year at Moody Bible Institute, majoring in Biblical Exposition and minoring in Theology.

I can say with certainty: the education I received at Deer Creek thoroughly prepared me for the

academic rigor of high school. I was never unprepared for any math, science, or English class I took.

Furthermore, Deer Creek dug a wellspring of Biblical knowledge in my mind. I came to appreciate this during my freshman year at Moody when taking Old and New Testament Survey. I had the basic facility to navigate through the Biblical text as a college student largely because

*continued on back page*

## THE DEER CREEK DIFFERENCE: THOUGHTS FROM A PARENT...

# WORTH THE SACRIFICE

by Scott Carlson, Deer Creek parent

When my wife and I made the decision to have children, we followed one of our favorite Bible verses: Proverbs 22:6— “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” We both had been raised in the public school system, so the decision to invest in a private education was challenging. As our daughters got closer to school age, we sent many prayers and conversations in God’s direction!

But we knew that children are bombarded with worldly influences, blurring the lines between acceptable and unacceptable behaviors. They spend approximately seven hours of each day in a school setting. So we wanted to make sure that

for seven hours a day, our children would be surrounded with Christian influence!

Throughout the years, Deer Creek leadership and educators have consistently influenced our daughters academically and spiritually. Without that synergy of family, church, and school, they would not be the young women they are today nor the future leaders we pray for.

We remained faithful to the Lord, and He provided. Whatever sacrifice we thought we were making, it was worth it. Even



The Carlson family: Taylor, Norma, Scott, and Jaycey, experiencing the Deer Creek difference

though our daughters have differing personalities, both have excelled in their education and extra-curricular activities. They serve others, and we see them continuing their journey of drawing closer to the Lord. ♥

## ...AND FROM A STUDENT

# GROWING UP KNOWING THE LORD

by Taylor Carlson,  
Deer Creek 8th-grader

I believe Christian education is very important in a child’s life and has made me who I am today.

My teachers are committed Christians who care about me. If I need help in anything, they will sit and talk me through the problem. They incorporate God into each lesson, and this has taught me that Jesus is in everything I do. Deer Creek is small, and that gives me more one-on-one time with teachers, so that I can learn

at a faster pace.

2 Timothy 3:14–15 says, “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” I believe if children grow up knowing the Lord and His ways, we will not forget. There will be hardships, but at Deer Creek a Christian



education can train us how to face life with Jesus by our side. No matter what we face, we need to trust in Jesus. ♥



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330 W. Highland Drive • Chicago Heights, IL 60411

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## ACADEMICALLY PREPARED, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

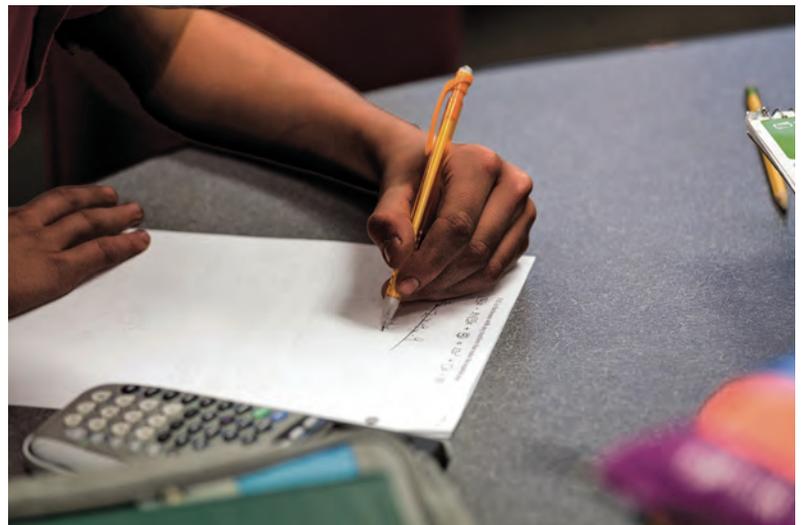
of 11 years of Bible classes as a child.

Even more important, because of my time at Deer Creek, the Scriptures are tucked away in the recesses of my heart. There are moments when I recall words said by a teacher—from over 10 years ago—and they stir my affections for Christ and encourage me to walk faithfully with Him.

The faculty at Deer Creek understand the point of Jesus' Parable of the Soils given to the disciples: be a soil cultivator. Deer Creek teachers do not simply communicate the Scriptures; they cultivate young hearts to receive the Scriptures. I am deeply grateful for their tender care and the nurturing environment.

In addition to my studies at Moody, I serve as Children's Minister of The Word Worship Center. After graduating from Moody (next year, Lord willing), I intend to continue Biblical and theological studies at the graduate level. My end goal is to pastor in the local church.

Thank you, Deer Creek. May the Lord continue to shine His face upon the Lions! 🦁



*Deer Creek graduates, we'd love to hear from you about the "Deer Creek difference" in your life! Please email us and share where you are and what you're doing: [info@dccsonline.org](mailto:info@dccsonline.org).*

## CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION—

# DOES IT MATTER? *We say Yes!*

Christ-centered education does matter! We are grateful to all of you who came alongside Deer Creek in 2016 with a real and impactful financial gift. Thank you for supporting this mission we share!

Did you know that the cost of education at Deer Creek is actually around \$6,600.00? **Yes, because of you, we are able to reduce the cost of tuition by nearly \$700.00 per student.** That's an incredible gift!

As we look to close out our fiscal year in June, would you consider a tax-deductible donation to Deer Creek? If so, please use the enclosed envelope or go online to [www.deercreek.org/giving](http://www.deercreek.org/giving).

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*Friends, listing your names here is not only a way to publicly express our thanks, it's also a wonderful encouragement to the entire Deer Creek family. Thank you!*

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