



IMPACT REPORT

FALL 2023



CONTENTS



03

MESSAGE FROM
THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

04

QUICK FACTS

06

NEW PROGRAMS

09

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

10

2023 GALA

11

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

12

SUMMIT APPROACH





A WORD FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friend,

2023 has been a tremendous year for Summit Christian School, in large part due to your generous support of our ministry. God poured his blessings over us again and again, in many small ways and in huge unexpected ways. Much of his blessing and provision for us came through your generous support of our school.

He also surprised us when we were recognized as a finalist for "Best Private School in Lee County" in Gulfshore Life's annual competition. The prior year's finalists were schools that had anywhere from 500-1,000 students. This year's other finalist has 1,100 students. The winner has 700. And then there was Summit Christian School, with our 100 students! We view this as a "nod" from our Heavenly Father encouraging us to press on in this important work.

Over the summer, we put in a lot of work improving our facilities. This was only possible due to the generosity of our supporters and the faithful stewardship of talents and financial resources among the Summit Family. We upgraded classroom materials and furniture, added new technology for student use, continued to improve our first impression as we updated our foyer and main office area, replaced all classroom sinks, increased the functionality of our library, STEM, and music rooms, upgraded our primary playground, and made major security upgrades, in addition to laying new floors and ceiling tiles throughout our main classroom building. It was a busy summer!

School is now back in session with many new course offerings and program upgrades that will be shared in this report. Our faculty and staff are enthusiastic about the year ahead, and students are back in class with big smiles on their faces. The Summit Family is thriving, and I can't wait for you to see all of the great things happening at 9065 Ligon Court this year. Please stop by as you're able so that you can see these updates for yourself!

Your Partner in the Gospel and Education,

JENNIFER MATHEWS
HEAD OF SCHOOL





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New program offerings: Honors Classes,
a Second Kindergarten, Latin, Special Ed,
Gifted Ed, Graphic Design, Advanced Art,
Personal Finance, Speech & Debate,
and Ukelele Instruction

20

Students benefitting from our new
gifted education program

50%

Faculty with advanced degrees

17%

Enrollment increase

70K

in scholarships to give EVERY child
access to a great education including
enrichment and athletic opportunities

313K

Dollars raised to provide and advance an
excellent education rooted in God's Word
at Summit Christian School



158%

Median progress towards
typical growth in reading

105%

Median progress towards
typical growth in math

2/3

Met or almost met (>90%)
stretch growth goals in
reading, math, or both



LATIN INSTRUCTION FOR GRADES 3-8

For the 2023-2024 school year, we've been able to expand our academic program to include Latin instruction to all students in grades 3-8. Latin instruction has been shown to have a variety of benefits to students, and we're excited that we can offer Summit's students this academic enrichment and opportunity.

Learning Latin root words helps students with vocabulary acquisition, perhaps especially those students who are English Language Learners. Approximately half of our middle school students are native Spanish speakers, so we anticipate this will be a great benefit for them.



Learning Latin also helps students with learning English grammar, and we hope it will help our students become stronger speakers and writers as they better understand how sentences are put together in both languages.

Additionally, learning Latin has been linked to higher SAT scores. One of our goals is to lay a strong foundation for our students so they have top high school and college options.

Soli Deo gloria

NEW FLOURISH PROGRAM

We believe that an excellent, Christ-centered education is for every child, not just those who are most academically gifted or whose parents have the most financial means. To help in this endeavor, we are pleased to offer our new Flourish Program.

SOAR STUDENTS WITH OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC RESULTS

We are excited to announce a new program at Summit for students performing at or above the 90th percentile. The program meets daily and provides academic challenge and enrichment across the subject areas depending on student interest. The class is taught by Ms. Szatkowski, who will be endorsed in Gifted Education by mid-year.

CULTIVATE FOR STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE LEARNING NEEDS

Some students need additional support in order to reach their highest potential in the classroom. For these students, we are rolling out our new Cultivate Program, through which a certified special education teacher will provide additional help and enrichment to students. This program will include 1-2 individual or small group sessions (depending on student need) during regular, 5-day weeks, as well as push-in time in the classroom, support of regular classroom teachers and helping to modify assignments and assessments appropriately, providing a separate testing location as needed, frequent communication with parents of students in the program, and an annual report of each child's goals and progress toward them.



Through the generosity of our donors, we provide scholarships to any child who cannot afford these enriching opportunities so no child goes without.

SECURITY UPGRADES

Security at Summit got a major boost for the 2023-2024 school year. We added Mr. Kevin from Summit Security to our team. He's an experienced armed guard who has integrated into our staff and works hard each day to keep our kids safe.

We also added security cameras across several areas of our campus. Mr. Kevin monitors these cameras from an iPad so he can monitor our spacious campus effectively.

We added privacy screens to our fences and planted bushes in front of them to obscure an unwanted visitor's view of our students while they're on the playground.

We also rekeyed our campus and added new locks in strategic places throughout our buildings, providing a safe haven for students if needed.



ACCREDITATION PROCESS UPDATE

Accreditation is a process by which an independent team certifies that a school is functioning properly and meets established standards for things like academics, facilities, and governance. It's important because the team, with no affiliation with the school, provides a thorough analysis of all aspects of a school by reviewing hundreds of artifacts such as budgets, files, curriculum maps, assessments, etc. and conducting stakeholder interviews to determine whether or not the school is fulfilling its moral and legal obligations to students and their families.

At the end of March, an accreditation team from Christian Schools of Florida came to evaluate our program. They gave Summit a glowing review. Here is some of what they had to say.



The Bible is definitely the foundation of everything that happens at Summit. Students are taught the worldview approach from preschool, and students are well versed in Scripture. Through interviews it was apparent children are continuously building a relationship with Jesus and were overflowing with joy as they spoke about their ability to learn about God throughout all daily instruction and activities.

Summit Christian School's mission statement, "Summit Christian School's mission is to minister to students and their families by providing an excellent education rooted in God's Word," accurately reflects the heart of the school.

A strength of SCS is their passion to serve diverse learners as evident by practices in place within every classroom.

Summit Christian School has a highly qualified faculty and staff. They are credentialed and passionate about their ministry. Daily interactions and teacher and parent interviews suggest that the staff is happy, enthusiastic, and optimistic about the school's future.

2023 GALA



Our 2023 Gala was the most successful one to date. 125 people attended - our largest attendance to date - and raised \$41,000 - the largest amount raised at a Summit fundraiser to date. A small choir of students performed, and our Head of School gave a quick update on all the things God has been doing at Summit Christian School. Then Randy and Lori entertained us as we danced the night away at the Crown Colony Country Club. It was a fun night for all!



CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

New roof, new ceiling tiles, new flooring, new paint, new furniture, upgraded playground, more devices, improved spaces. It was a busy year elevating the look and functionality of our campus!



Before →

← *After*



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OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Summit, we believe that every child deserves a college-preparatory education. We offer honors courses in middle school and a special class for students performing at or above the 90th percentile to challenge our brightest students.

By individualizing our instruction and working to ensure that every student masters grade level content, we use best practices to address learning gaps or special learning challenges in the regular classroom and as part of our Cultivate program for students with unique learning needs.

We strive to help every student acquire the necessary foundation for a successful life glorifying God and utilizing his/her unique gifts to benefit others.

Through the generosity of our donors, we provide scholarships so that every child has access to a high-quality education, including the extracurricular activities that help produce well-rounded future leaders.

OUR MISSION

To minister to students and their families by providing an excellent education rooted in God's Word.

OUR VISION

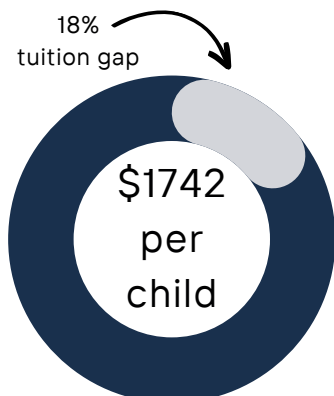
Inspire students to be life-long learners who use their gifts to transform the world for the glory of Christ.

OUR PLAN

We want to be the best Christian school we can possibly be. We carefully analyze data to ensure our program is effective, and we "borrow" educational philosophies from various schools of thought, putting together what works, and foregoing those practices not shown to drive student learning outcomes. We are striving for excellence, and we are carefully assessing our program to ensure we are truly fulfilling our mission.



**SUPPORT CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION.
MAKE A GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND TODAY.**



The Step Up for Students voucher only covers a portion of our tuition. There is still an average gap of \$1,742 per child. 34% of our students receive a needs-based scholarship on top of the Step Up for Students voucher.

Your gift to our annual fund helps us close the gap for those students and propels us forward with new initiatives.

Summit Christian School is a 501c3 organization. **Your tax-deductible gift helps us to transform Christian education so that data-driven, research-based, Christ-centered education is available for all.**

Make a gift today at summitswfl.org/give-now.





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