

Friday, August 27, 2021

Dear *Sound Christian Academy* Family and Friends:

We trust you had a restful, relaxing, and restorative summer. We have been busy transforming Tacoma Baptist School to [Sound Christian Academy](#) (SCA) in preparation for your return.

Romans 12:2 ... *be transformed by the renewing of your mind* ... is the 2021-22 SCA school year theme. Romans 12 will provide our roadmap as we present ourselves as living sacrifices (1-2), serving God with our Spiritual gifts (3-8) and behaving like Christians (9-21).

To renew is to restore, resume, reaffirm, revive, replenish, reestablish. This type of transformation enables a 61-year-old institution to be rebranded as the new kids on the block!

Just a few of the examples of the work that has been accomplished as part of this comprehensive rebranding effort include:

Personnel

- Investing in all of those who serve by significantly increasing salaries of faculty and staff.
- *Administrative leadership Team* additions: [Cameron Cox](#), Dean of Students and [Rick Noren](#), Athletic Director.
- Key leadership hires and promotions: [Sara Halverson](#), Director of Business and Finance, [Matt Richey](#), Assistant Dean of Spiritual Life, and [Trisha Thornton](#), Assistant Dean of Elementary and Educational Programs.
- New football coach, [Jon "Taz" Randall](#) and volleyball coach, [Heather Goodman](#).
- **Special Shoutout** to [Kelli Soyring](#) for the Middle School garnering our second [Best of the South Sound](#) recognition.

Educational Programs and Services

- Elementary School enhancements include new curriculum (English language arts, math, spelling, writing, et al) along with several [fresh new faculty faces](#).
- Created a new classroom to accommodate growth for two Kindergarten classes.
- Refreshed library space, renovated services, and revamped program offering.
- A new *Science Initiative* under the leadership of new faculty member [Jerry Saldajeno](#), including upgraded MS and HS labs, classrooms, and equipment.
- Our *Digital Learning Initiative* continues with additional laptops and updating the Computer Lab (25 new desktop computers, monitors and keyboards are on order).

Physical Campus Enhancements

- Reconfigured the front offices for expanded faculty workspace.

- Relocated Admissions and Marketing/Communications offices to the Administrative “G” Building – creating efficiencies by consolidating business operations (including Advancement and Finance functions) and more fully utilizing campus space.
- Entire exterior repainted, interior touched up and color splashes added, new signage throughout including the gym and transportation fleet.
- Beautification of the school grounds (thanks in no small part to Neal and Angie Eifling’s contribution of time and resources).
- New lighting in the gym and a new gym stage theater curtain (thanks to the Arbogasts and Reinmuths for their lift and assist).
- And, of course, a [new school logo, mascot and wordmarks](#) – maintaining variations of the elements of the cross, the shield and color scheme.

Looking Ahead

- A new website for enhanced internal and external communications is coming soon.
- A commemorative publication is in the works, honoring our legacy as Tacoma Baptist School and celebrating our future as *Sound Christian Academy*.
- The sale of the south parcel of property from the “H” building (formerly *Western Baptist College of Biblical Education* dormitory) to S. 68th Street is in the *City of Tacoma* Planning and Plot Rezoning process. We are being assisted by Jeremiah Durr of [First Western Properties](#). Our goal is to use the proceeds to remodel the “A” building for an Early Learning and Child Care facility.

COVID-19 Reopening Plans

God blessed our school community last year as we navigated the coronavirus and were able to remain continuously open with in-person instruction. We are grateful for a staunchly committed faculty and staff and strong partnership with our families to help see us through.

This year, we acknowledge the following progress regarding school reopening predicated on the current *State of Washington* [COVID-19 protocols](#):

- 3 feet of social distancing in classrooms (no longer 6 feet). This allows us to be fully open as we continue to grow into our capacity.
- Masks only need to be worn when indoors (no longer at all times). This permits ample time for unmasking outside, and during lunches and recesses, etc.
- Gone are the health-check screening protocols. To be replaced by parental prudence regarding the wellness of your child and commonsense assessment by our faculty and administration about the health and safety of others in the case of illness. As always, please keep your child at home when experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms, or those related to the coronavirus or delta variant.
- The positive case identification contact tracing, communication and protocols – including individual quarantine and classes or divisions quarantining (if necessary) and transitioning to our robust remote learning (primary) and online education (secondary) platforms – will all remain in effect.

Regarding the *State of Washington* [COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for K-12 Employees](#):

- As a faith-based educational, nonprofit business we intend to operate within the guidelines while honoring a person's individual religious beliefs. We believe this represents the culture of our community as citizens with individual religious rights.
- We acknowledge there are faculty/staff and families/students who operate from a basis of tolerance, grace and love for each other, including diverse points of view.
- Our desire is to ensure all families we serve are welcomed, embraced and supported in the same way we operate as an organization and afforded the same courtesies.

We look forward to seeing you at [Back-to-School Night](#) on Monday, August 30! Enjoy getting reacquainted with old friends, meeting new families, faculty and staff, having a fabulous (free) hamburger or hot dog dinner followed by (free) [Bliss Small Batch Creamery](#) ice cream, and pick up you (free) *Sound Christian Academy* spirit gear!

Opportunities to engage as a [Parent Volunteer](#) or to become a part of our new [Booster Club](#), led by former TBS track and soccer standout and athletic Hall of Fame member Caleb Timmer, along with all the information and details for the start of a great school year will be provided.

Blessings from your [Sound Christian Academy Board of Directors](#)

Jude 1:24-25

PS Don't forget to sign up to play in, or sponsor, the [Sound Christian Golf Classic](#) on Friday, September 10 at [High Cedars Golf Club](#).