

Dear Parents,

Attached, you will find the 2010-11 school calendar. This calendar includes some significant changes:

- 1) School will begin on Monday, August 16, one week earlier than in the past.
- 2) First semester will conclude **before** Christmas break rather than after. This means that first semester exams will be administered before Christmas.
- 3) Our first-ever *J-Term* (January Term) is scheduled for the first eight days of school in January of 2011.
- 4) School will conclude before Memorial Day on May 27.
- 5) There is a four-day weekend scheduled in February around Presidents' Day.

NOTE: Spring break continues to be scheduled the first full week of April. We plan to continue this pattern until the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) is phased out by the Ohio Department of Education. The OGT will be phased out and replaced by a different assessment, but the date for these changes has not been determined.

Why the changes in the school calendar? The calendar changes are dictated by exciting program enhancements (discussed below) and requirements of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). The Ohio Department of Education mandates include requirements for the number of days school is in session annually, minimum hours of daily instruction, and minimum hours of instruction per semester per class. Each of these requirements has been addressed.

An additional change also mandated by ODE is that in 2010-11 schools will be limited to no more than three calamity days, most often described as "Snow Days." Any cancellation of school in excess of three calamity days in 2010-11 must be made up. You will note that four potential make-up days are scheduled, the first being April 25 should we require its use.

You have been hearing about our program enhancements for some months now. *Connections*, *J-Term*, and *Schools of Distinction* are at the center of our vision for transformation, yet implementation of these programs requires adjustments to our daily schedule and to our calendar. Therefore, our school calendar has been developed as follows: 171 instructional days (85 in first semester and 86 in second semester) + 2 teacher in-service days + 1 parent-teacher conference day + 8 days (*J-Term* with varied and unique educational opportunities) = 182. Administering semester exams after Christmas break has always been less than desirable. With the addition of *J-Term*, we have the opportunity to improve greatly on our first semester exam paradigm. We now have the opportunity to complete first semester classes and exams prior to Christmas break, and meet ODE requirements. When second semester begins following *J-Term* on January 13, teachers and students will not be attempting to prepare for first semester exams, as has been the practice at CVCA and most schools for many years.

Small-Group *Connections* will be implemented on a school-wide level beginning in the fall of 2010. We are scheduling approximately 40 minutes every Thursday for these strategic opportunities to “connect” with our students around real-life, relevant issues.

Our new start time will be 8:00 a.m. and our new end time will be 3:11 p.m. This adjustment in our daily schedule will permit us to recoup time lost in the eight days of *J-Term* without extending the length of our school year. In addition, beginning school on August 16 will allow us to provide sufficient hours of instruction for first semester classes and still complete first semester prior to Christmas break. And, finishing the school year on May 27 is made possible by shifting the entire calendar one week earlier in August. If we start one week earlier, we will conclude one week earlier.

We are excited about the changes that are being incorporated; we believe these changes will provide greater opportunities to fulfill our mission, *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ* and our Core Values, Christ-Centered Education, Value the Whole Student, Community that Trains and Mentors, Authentic Faith.

In closing, I wish to remind you that there are four parent meeting dates in January which have been scheduled for us to share with you the exciting news and details about our Tools for Transforming Tomorrow Vision Campaign. These vitally important parent meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, at 8:15 a.m. in the school library and that evening at 7:00 in the auditorium. The other two meetings are scheduled in the auditorium on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. and on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. I encourage the presence of at least one parent at one of these meetings which have been announced in *The Link* and in *The Trumpeter*.

Yours in the Cause of Education that is Christian,

Mike Bova  
Headmaster