

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which not man shall see the Lord.”
Hebrews 12:14 (KJV)

Dear Coram Deo Academy Carrollton Parents,

I look forward to seeing you at the end of year ceremony Tuesday May 10 at 1 pm. We should celebrate student progress together.

I have visited our new Carrollton campus nearly weekly, marveling at its accomplishments when just one year ago it was but a dream. By August, two hundred twenty children assembled to begin a precise formal education. This education in a historic Christian worldview through a rigorous classical curriculum counters the daily culture many of them experience elsewhere. Boys unable to sit still when they arrived now parse Latin, girls multiply faster than a calculator, second graders recite creeds rarely uttered in many modern churches and third graders can describe the great schism. So many of our basic goals have been achieved with great effort. We also embrace the need for incremental improvement.

I am grateful for the school's facilities. I marvel at the location. The building with its easy access, handsome presentation to the street, large portico, copious lobby and hallways, brightly lit and illustrated classrooms, gymnasium and auditorium provides an excellent place for working out our mission. Our schools in other locations, strive not be covetous of the building in Carrollton that the Lord has so graciously provided. We have recently renewed positive relations with the proprietors that lead us to believe next year will work even better than this year. We pray for and give thanks to the board, pastoral staff and congregation of Christian Life Assembly and The Rock for hosting us this first year.

I have observed and nudged along school progress for thirty two weeks going on thirty four weeks moving in and out of each classroom multiple times, greeting parents at the entry and at some events, students, faculty and staff in the hallways the gym and even tossing in an occasional basket. Mrs. Hooper's kindergarteners enjoyed a year of stories, marched through first grade Saxon math, began second, and along with numerous happy parents celebrated their first Mother Goose Festival complete with arbor and gleeful chatter. The first graders are blessed with the patient faithful teaching of Mrs. Braswell, day after day progressing in well-ordered peacefulness toward mastery of reading, writing and Old Testament studies and more while Mrs. White accomplishes the same with the highest of professionalism seasoned with grace. Mrs. Jones' kind words and experience lead seven-year-old students through a rich and rewarding curriculum while the students play joyfully in the gym and on the playground. Yes, the laughter fills my ears in the gym while the students move respectfully through the hallways without disturbing other classes. Mrs. Iandoli's third graders pack away amazing quantities of knowledge for future use. What a privilege for a teacher of such high standards and expectations to help them order their minds for future success week after week. Even the little ones have learned Latin as Mrs. Tompkins taught them things they never knew before while allowing them some room for play. When one of our brightest teachers

found herself expecting at the beginning of school, rather than take leave and force us to find a less qualified fifth grade teacher, she persevered through her own discomfort to within days of delivery. Some parents laud her well-ordered classroom environment and quick mind. One couple attributes their daughter's outstanding year of academic growth to Mrs. Brown. I could go on to credit the readers theater to Mr. Wood, the teaching of the syllogism with delight and a chuckle to the always-cheerful Mr. Davis and advanced Latin instruction for middle school students to Mrs. Fleming, a teacher of exceptional linguistic ability. It appears that our main goal has been achieved.

One teacher told me she has never taught anywhere with a more helpful administrator than Mr. Fox. He works tirelessly to provide an environment conducive to classical learning. Another experienced teacher calls him a man of remarkable patience and another one of "wise judgment" whenever she is in need of counsel. He set up a lunch time to provide a break for teachers, supervises the cleaning and set ups, manages the relationship with the proprietor, regularly asks counsel of his supervisor, assures budgetary conformity, seeks to fulfill the mission of the school as it is written, encourages and prays with the teachers. When the Dean of the college where Mr. Fox taught formally told me he was a man of unimpeachable character he was correct. Mr. Fox should be thanked by every mother, every father and every child associated with the school.

Now we approach the end of an immensely fruitful year. One in which we overcame the odds by launching a satellite campus teaching the same curriculum in the same way as its predecessor. If only our first year at the Flower Mound school was as successful. Oh yes, we have had some struggles adjusting to a new location with one hundred sixty new students and several faculty new to CDA. Are there areas in which we can improve? Of course! And we seek to do so diligently. We have enjoyed uncountable expressions of thanks from the majority. Over eighty percent of the students are returning to Coram Deo, all of the faculty desire to continue (one reducing to part time). We have parents apparently so sold on the idea that they have requested a school closer to their homes and friends in Dallas. We should take time to give thanks for the good while we make plans to improve. Over the summer we will seek to improve on our deficiencies and build on our successes with the prayerful result of an even better second school year in Carrollton.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

Peace be with you,

Rodney Marshall
Headmaster