



LAKELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-2022



# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

This Annual Report from 2021-22 flows from a deep sense of gratitude for God's gracious provision for LCS. The school year opened with a record enrollment of 1124 students with waiting lists in multiple grades.

The annual Victories and Voyages Gala successfully raised \$200,000 to meet our matching gift challenge grant to help fund financial aid for families that could not otherwise attend LCS. This effort is an expression of our commitment to keep Christian schooling accessible to as many families as possible.

In March we celebrated the beginning of the public phase of the Forging a Firm Foundation Campaign with a campaign kick-off concert and reception. This campaign includes the new high school building and renovation of older spaces on campus to enhance the educational experience across our secondary grades. This event marked the 90% mark in commitments to the \$19.1M campaign.

In April the whole school gathered on the site of the high school building for the groundbreaking ceremony. As of this printing, the construction is on schedule for a June completion date and occupation for the start of the 2023-24 school year. Fundraising for the renovation portion of the project is ongoing.

School leadership continues to work through the latest Strategic Plan crafted in the spring of 2021. Goals for Academic, Governance, and Advancement are being systematically pursued. A copy of the Strategic Plan is posted on our website.

On a personal note, the 2021-22 school year marked my fiftieth year of service at LCS. It has been a sacred privilege to be a part of what the Lord has done here over the years and to see the children and grandchildren of former students walking the halls.



The Annual Report reflects our desire for financial transparency as we endeavor to exercise faithful biblical stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We recognize that all the funds available to us come from tuition or donations. We want to provide the information necessary to promote fiscal confidence among all our stakeholders and ministry partners.

The LCS Board of Directors receives a complete audit each year as a part of their fiduciary responsibilities to provide financial oversight for the school. A copy of the audit may be reviewed in the Business Office. The school budget is carefully designed to provide the maximum benefit to the students in the most efficient manner. Donors can be assured that funds contributed to LCS are spent as promised by the school in accordance with the intent of the donor.

To all who continue to stand with us and invest in Christian schooling at LCS, we say, "Thank You" on behalf of the over 1100 students who come to the campus each day. We trust you will find this report encouraging. If you have any questions about the data presented here or any aspect of the school's financial operation, please feel free to contact us.

With appreciation for your partnership and prayers for LCS,

**Mike Sligh, Ed. D.**  
Head of School



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# LCS AT A GLANCE

The mission of Lakeland Christian School is to educate students in the light of God's Word to equip them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, service and worship.

Lakeland Christian School is one of the nation's premier private Christian schools. We provide challenging academics, championship athletics and award-winning fine arts. The school's primary distinction, though, is the Biblical worldview that permeates every facet of school life. The following information describes the vibrant LCS of today, a school community dedicated to higher levels of excellence with each passing year.

## THE SCHOOL

- Polk County's oldest and largest K4-12 private school - established in 1954
- Non-denominational
- Biblical worldview
- Extensive co-curricular program
- School families represent more than 200 different local churches
- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS)
- Member of the following associations: Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools (FAANS), Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), Florida Vocal Association (FVA), Florida School Music Association (FSMA)

## FACULTY

- Teachers maintain professional certifications in their fields
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 14:1
- 31 teachers hold master's degrees
- 30 teachers have taught at LCS for 10 years or more

## ACADEMICS

- Engaging and challenging curriculum
- 90% of the 2022 graduates pursued college
- Test scores exceed local, state and national averages
- 65 AP, Honors and Dual-Enrollment courses offered

## ATHLETICS

- 35 teams in 14 sports, grades 6-12
- 25 State titles, 26 State runners-up
- Outstanding on-campus stadium, athletic center and gymnasium

## ARTS

- Award-winning band and choir programs
- Musical production each year
- Private piano lessons available



# CLASS OF 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

The Class of 2022 was the 50th graduating class of Lakeland Christian School. Of the 69 members of this senior class, 14 students were part of the first-ever K4 class at LCS when it started in 2008. This group of students was part of State championship athletic teams, award-winning Fine Arts programs, Mock Trial and Robotics teams. They were leaders in the classroom, in their youth groups and in the community.

Approximately 90% of the graduates from the Class of 2022 have pursued post-secondary education in schools across America including the University of Florida, Florida State University, Auburn University, the United States Air Force Academy, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Southeastern University and more. In the Class of 2022, 77% of students matriculated to four-year universities and 12% to two-year colleges.



**60 PERCENT**  
EARNED COLLEGE CREDITS



**\$4,348,140**  
EARNED IN SCHOLARSHIPS



**11,459**  
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS  
EARNED BY THE CLASS



**18 PERCENT**  
QUALIFIED FOR FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES ACADEMIC SCHOLAR AWARDS

**21 PERCENT**  
QUALIFIED FOR FLORIDA BRIGHT FUTURES MEDALLION AWARDS

# 22 HIGHLIGHTS FROM 21-22



## ▲ See You at the Pole

In late September, LCS students of all ages participated in the annual See You At The Pole. This global day of student prayer started in 1990 and is a student-initiated, student-led time of prayer. Before school, secondary students joined together at our pavilion to pray for friends, family, our school and our nation. Our students stood bold in their faith that morning. Elementary students also participated throughout the day.



## ▲ Homecoming

2021 Homecoming royalty: Princess Taylor Stiles, Prince Jacob Allen, King Malcolm Bennett and Queen Jazmyne Niver.

## ▼ Financial Aid Gala

The 7th Annual Voyages & Victories Gala: Backyard Blessings was held in early November at the Skylight Hangar at Sun 'N Fun. In addition to more than 100 silent auction items, the live auction featured some amazing items including a hunting trip, a luxury suite for a USF football game and the ever-popular labradoodle puppy. This event raises money for the LCS Financial Aid Fund.



## ▼ The Little Mermaid

With a cast comprised of students in grades 3-12, this year's Fine Arts musical, "The Little Mermaid," delighted audiences for four sold-out performances. The main characters also hosted a brunch to interact with young fans of the beloved musical.





## ▲ Girls' Golf Wins Districts

The girls' golf team won their District tournament. The team is coached by Beth Burton.



## ▲ Fall Fanfare Concert

In late October, the LCS Fine Arts Department presented the Fall Fanfare Concert. The 6th-12th grade bands and choirs each performed at the event. The choirs were under the direction of Mrs. Wendy Carl, and the bands were under the direction of Mrs. Mindi Mulligan and Mrs. Kathy Johnson. Soli Deo Gloria!

## ▼ Praise & Worship Week with Grandparents

For several years, Grandparents' Day has been one of the favorite days on the LCS campus. After missing last year's event due to COVID-19, LCS was committed to welcoming these special guests to campus again. During the week before Thanksgiving, our elementary students honored their grandparents and grand-friends with a time of Praise and Worship. Each grade level hosted its own performance, which included several worship songs and recited verses.



## ▼ Veterans' Day Program

Elementary students gathered on the football field to honor our veterans by singing patriotic songs and learning about the history and importance of Veterans' Day. Students donned red, white and blue apparel, and each received a flag to commemorate the holiday. The students also participated in a number of classroom activities to learn about our veterans.



# 22 HIGHLIGHTS FROM 21-22



## ▲ Cross Country at State

Big congratulations to the girls cross country team and senior Jackson Overholt for finishing strong at the Florida High School State Championships. The girls cross country team placed seventh out of 32 teams, and Jackson finished 32nd out of 227 runners in the boys' race. We are so proud of you all!



## ▲ Operation Christmas Child

Second grader Cohen Johnson felt challenged to make a difference after hearing about Operation Christmas Child in chapel. He challenged his church, First Baptist Church Imperial Lakes, to help. Cohen and his family brought in 116 boxes to ship to children around the world.

## ▼ Mock Trial Trip

The Florida State Champion LCS Mock Trial team had to spend a week in Tallahassee attending Florida Supreme Court Oral Arguments, meeting with Legislators, and learning about law and public policy.



## ▼ Football at State Semifinals

The varsity football team had an undefeated season until they fell in the State Semifinals.





## ▲ 4-H at Youth Fair

Congratulations to all of our LCS 4-H students who exhibited at the Polk County Youth Fair! Our 4-H club had five members representing LCS in the Parade of Champions.



## ▲ Viking Invasion 5K

The 5th Annual Viking Invasion 5K and Kids' Fun Run was held on January 29. Sixteen-year-old James Lovely won the race, finishing with a time of 17:54. Several LCS families and friends came out on the very chilly Saturday morning to participate in the race. Thanks to Sweet Life Farms and Patterson Companies for sponsoring the Viking Invasion once again. The race, which starts and ends in Viking Stadium, benefits the LCS Viking Fund.

## ▼ Annual Christmas Musical

Christmas Musical was incredible. A special thank you to our Fine Arts department and students who beautifully shared "The Miracle of Christmas" through worship and celebration.



## ▼ All-State Choir and Band

LCS had 17 students selected by audition to perform in five All-State Choirs and three All-State Bands at the 2022 Florida Music Educator's Conference in Tampa in January.



# 22 HIGHLIGHTS FROM 21-22



## ▲ Elementary Olympics

The week of Olympics is one of the favorite weeks on campus for our elementary kids and their families! In early March, students in K4-5th grade competed in the softball throw, obstacle course, hurdles, sprints, relays and more. Members of the senior class helped time and score the events.



## ▲ Boxed Cereal Drive

Mrs. Magar's first-period devotions class collected boxes of cereal for children who won't get school breakfasts during the summer. Their original goal was to collect 100 boxes. Our LCS students collected 518 boxes, and Free Rider Fellowship collected 75, giving us a grand total of 593 boxes!

## ▼ Back to Back State Champs

The Lady Vikings varsity soccer team earned their second consecutive Class 3A State Championship with a 2-1 win over the Benjamin School. The Lady Vikings, coached by LCS alum Jason Streets, finished their season with a record of 22-2-3.



## ▼ Robin Hood

The annual spring play took place on February 18 and 19, and LCS students performed The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood. The cast, comprised of secondary students, rehearsed for six weeks in preparation for the play. The plot follows a pompous Robin Hood who, with the help of his loyal Merry men, attempts to win the hand of Lady Marian, only to be foiled by the evil Prince John and the Sheriff of Nottingham who try some extreme and silly measures to defeat Robin Hood. This comedic retelling of the classic story provided lots of laughs for both the cast and the audience!





## ▲ Baseball at Polk County Championship

The Viking Varsity Baseball team earned back-to-back Polk County championships with a 3-1 win over an outstanding Winter Haven HS team! Daniel Hartley pitched six innings and gave up 0 earned runs.

Brody Donay and Ben McDonald both hit home runs to help lead the Vikings. The team went on to win the Class 3A-District 7 championship in early May.

## ▼ 50th Graduating Class

The 69-member Class of 2022 celebrated Commencement on May 23, making them the 50th graduating class of Lakeland Christian School. Commencement addresses were given by Valedictorian Cheney Curls, Salutatorian Breanna Newberg and Assistant Football Coach and LCS Faculty Members John O'Neal. Christian Leadership Award winner Jack Smith spoke at Baccalaureate the afternoon prior.



For even more highlights from the 2021-2022 school year, be sure to follow Lakeland Christian School on social media.



@lcsvikings  
 @lcsvikingathletics  
 @lcs\_performing\_arts  
 @lcssrise  
 @lcs\_viking\_alumni  
 @lcsguidance



@lcsvikings  
 @VikingAthletics  
 @PerformingArtsLCS  
 @lcssrise



# 21-22 MARKED BY RECORD ENROLLMENT

Lakeland Christian School was blessed with another year of strong enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year as families continue to desire a Christian education for their children. As new families join the LCS community, more children and young people are reached for the sake of the Gospel.

## 2021-2022 TOTAL: 1124

- Elementary: 490
- Middle School: 272
- High School: 362

## 2020-2021 TOTAL: 1066

- Elementary: 447
- Middle School: 264
- High School: 355

## 2019-2020 TOTAL: 1091

- Elementary: 443
- Middle School: 272
- High School: 376

## 2018-2019 TOTAL: 1098

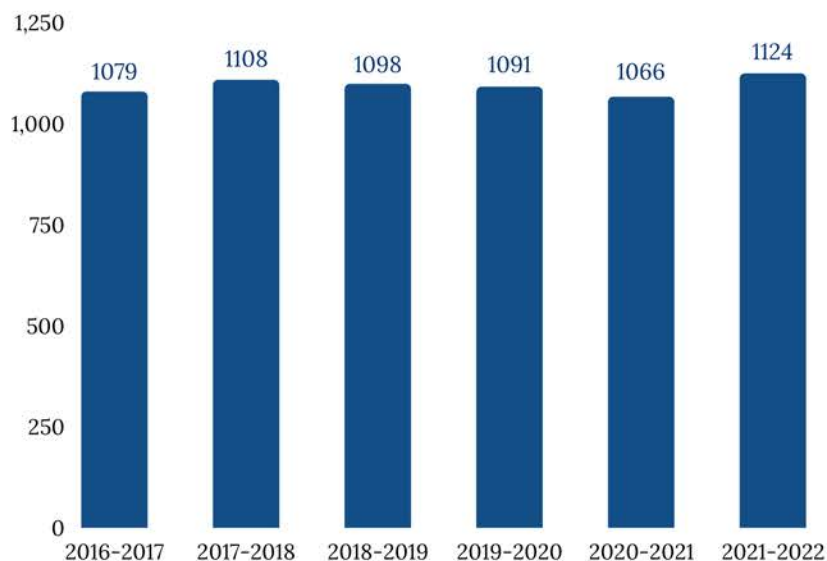
- Elementary: 445
- Middle School: 275
- High School: 378

## 2017-2018 TOTAL: 1108

- Elementary: 455
- Middle School: 252
- High School: 385
- Discovery: 15

## 2016-2017 TOTAL: 1079

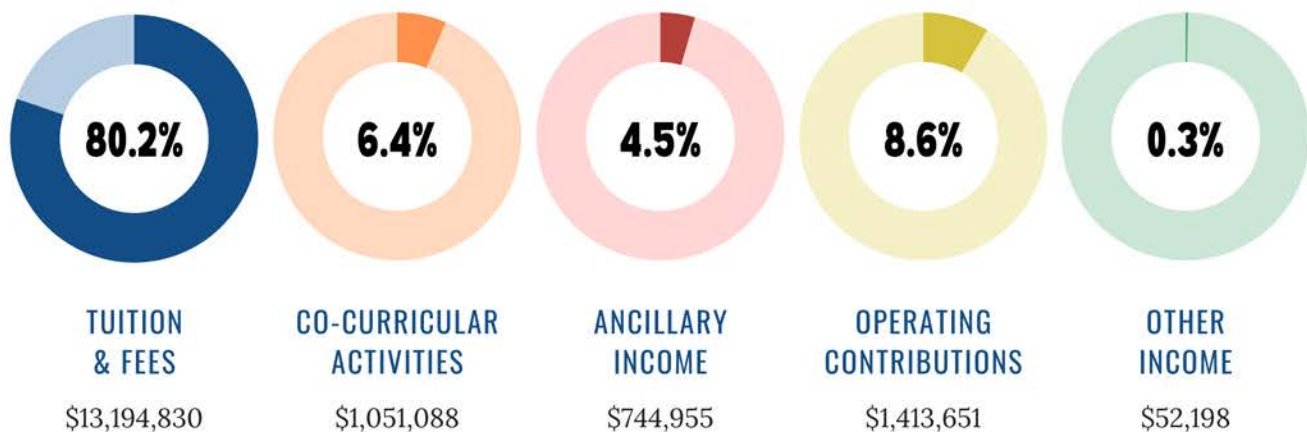
- Elementary: 419
- Middle School: 269
- High School: 379
- Discovery: 12



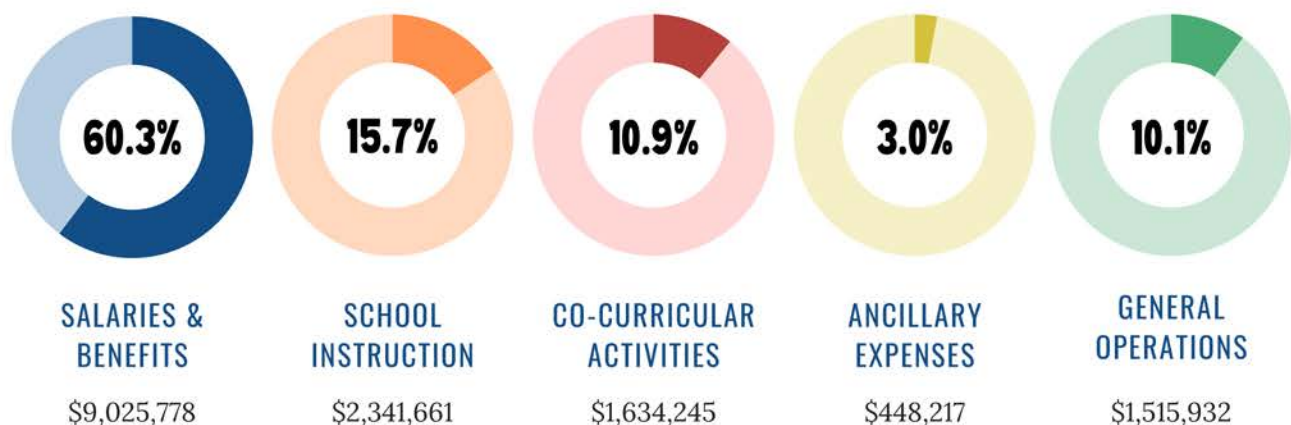


# 21-22 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

TOTAL OPERATING INCOME: \$16,456,722



TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$14,965,833



*The numbers presented represent the operations of the school. Non-operating activity (investment returns, campaign activity, permanently restricted donations, etc.) is not reflected above. A complete copy of the auditors' report and corresponding financials are available for review in the school office.*



# A YEAR OF GENEROUS GIVING

## THE VIKING FUND



The Viking Fund is the annual giving initiative of Lakeland Christian School. We are blessed to have a multi-generational family of faithful supporters. This group includes current parents, graduates, alumni families, grandparents, friends from the community, as well as past and present faculty, staff, and administrators. We depend on and are grateful for their generous contributions which help to provide a vibrant educational experience for our students.

**DURING THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, TOTAL GIVING TO THE VIKING FUND WAS \$139,594.**

## VOYAGES & VICTORIES GALA



The Voyages & Victories Gala is the primary school-wide special event to raise funds for the LCS Financial Aid Fund. The theme for the 6th annual event was Backyard Blessings. Proceeds from this event provided needed tuition assistance to families with a demonstrated financial need. Guests gathered at Sun 'N Fun for an evening of testimonies, dinner, musical entertainment and a lively auction. The real winners each year are the children and young people who can be at LCS through the generosity of sponsors and attendees.

**THE 2021 VOYAGES & VICTORIES GALA RAISED \$404,138 FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.**

## RISE ENDOWMENT



The RISE Institute is profoundly grateful to have received a five million dollar gift to fund its new endowment, ensuring that the work of engaging and challenging students will continue far into the future. The gift helps fund RISE faculty positions and equipment, allowing for the growth of RISE Institute programs. Now in its twelfth year, the RISE Institute provides a wide range of elective courses and competitions including robotics and engineering, law and public policy, experimental science and other science courses, innovation, entrepreneurship, design, and event planning. It also includes the Urban Farm at Mass Market, which introduces students to agriculture and last growing season donated nearly 1000 pounds of produce to those who are food insecure in Lakeland.

**GIFTS TO THE RISE ENDOWMENT IN 2021 TOTALED \$4,100,000.**



# A YEAR OF GENEROUS GIVING

Operating a thriving Christian school like LCS is expensive. Our needs will always exceed revenue from tuition and fees — especially when it is a priority here to make a concerted effort to maintain modest tuition increases. That means LCS counts on the giving of a community of ministry partners — those who provide faithful support to the school year after year. The following information reflects heartfelt generosity to keep LCS on the forefront of educational distinction:

## GIVEN / PLEDGED BY CONSTITUENCY

- School Parents: 170 gifts | \$651,717
- Grandparents: 78 gifts | \$8,763,525
- Alumni: 11 gifts | \$7,250
- Alumni Parents: 35 gifts | \$288,100
- Employees: 942 gifts | \$93,933
- Other: 248 gifts | \$3,294,291

## GIVEN / PLEDGED BY FUND

- Financial Aid: 236 gifts | \$508,606
- Viking Fund: 930 gifts | \$139,594
- Capital Campaigns: 125 gifts | \$7,669,474  
*(Forging a Firm Foundation, Roger Evans Athletic Center)*
- RISE: 3 gifts | \$501,050
- RISE Endowment: 2 gifts | \$4,100,000
- Other: 188 gifts | \$180,092



2021-2022  
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS

**1,484**



2021-2022  
TOTAL GIVING

**\$13,098,816**



# FORGING A FIRM FOUNDATION

On the morning of March 29, the entire LCS school family lined the perimeter of what will be the new high school building. This official groundbreaking ceremony for the upper school facility followed years of planning and fundraising for the Forging a Firm Foundation capital campaign at Lakeland Christian School.

Set to open in the fall of 2023, the building will feature 27 new learning areas including labs, classrooms, and special program suites. Students will benefit from the ongoing campaign, and the high school building, for decades to come.

As we wrapped up the 21-22 school year, we were able to see the financial progress as we updated the campaign thermometer in the carline. It has been an incredible work of God through His people getting Lakeland Christian to the following update:

**OF THE \$19.1 MILLION GOAL, \$17.5 MILLION HAS BEEN COMMITTED, WITH AN ADDITIONAL DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR MATCHING GIFT COMMITTED UNTIL WE REACH OUR GOAL. THE FORGING A FIRM FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN IS ONLY \$800,000 AWAY FROM ITS COMPLETION.**





# FORGING A FIRM FOUNDATION



*At the official groundbreaking ceremony in late March, the entire LCS school family lined the perimeter of what will be the new high school building.*



# HOW TO GIVE

Good financial planning honors God. It may also help you avoid unnecessary taxes and make a larger gift.

## CASH GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Cash gifts and pledges may be made as a single gift or a pledge. Online giving is available at [www.lcsonline.org/support/give-online/](http://www.lcsonline.org/support/give-online/)

## GIFTS IN KIND

Gifts in kind possibilities are limitless. LCS uses and needs many goods and services.

## APPRECIATED ASSETS

Appreciated assets (appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year) will generate a tax deduction based upon fair market value.

## TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

Tangible personal property giving will enjoy certain tax advantages.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts for current or retired employees are offered by many corporations.

## PLANNED GIFTS

Planned gifts allow you to maximize your giving and/or minimize the impact of your estate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: MATTE DIAZ, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT | 863-688-2771 | [MDIAZ@LCSONLINE.ORG](mailto:MDIAZ@LCSONLINE.ORG)



**As we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Mike Sligh,  
would you consider making  
Lakeland Christian School a part of your legacy?**

## **Estate Planning Secures Your Legacy**

Engaging the next generation in wealth management is essential to safeguard an inheritance that can leave a lasting impact on your loved ones. Our partners at PhilanthroCorp will guide you through a simple process resulting in wills and estate documents that reflect your values and protect your legacy for many years.

These services are provided to you free of charge. The plan that PhilanthroCorp helps you create can then be implemented by your own personal advisor, or PhilanthroCorp can refer you to an attorney that will draft documents at greatly reduced rates.



**Scan the QR code and submit the form or call Susan Wylie at 1-800-876-7958 ext. 2125 to have a PhilanthroCorp representative call you to schedule your first confidential phone appointment.**





LAKELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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