



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Lakeland Christian School





## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



The 2022-2023 school year was a year of significant transition in the leadership of LCS with the retirement of Dr. Mike and Mary Sligh after 51 years of service. Schools routinely experience instability during such transition that manifests itself in lower retention among students and faculty, fewer new applications, and lower levels in giving. We are pleased to report that retention of students and faculty was high, interest reflected in new applications was strong, and financial support through giving remained robust. The 2022-23 Annual Report reflects God's abundant faithfulness and provision to Lakeland Christian School.

The Annual Voyages and Victories Gala and financial aid designated gifts totaled \$567,733, exceeding our matching gift challenge grant which supports our financial aid program for families who could not otherwise attend LCS. This effort is an expression of our commitment to keep Christian schooling accessible to as many families as possible.

The Viking Fund and capital campaign gifts totaled just over \$2 million while the RISE Institute received gifts totaling \$1.2 million to support the ongoing development of a program and campus plan designed to support the fulfillment of our mission and development of our core values as the foundation of the student experience.

In summary, the 2022-2023 school year witnessed 1535 gifts totaling \$3.9 million. This is amazing generosity and financial support inspired by faithfulness to the Lord and the school He called into existence in 1954. We are grateful.

In August, we officially opened the Mike and Mary Sligh High School building, the culmination of the Forging a Firm Foundation Campaign. Campaign commitments through the 2022-2023 school year were more than \$20M, allowing LCS to open the "state of the art" high school without incurring debt to complete the facility.

The Board of Directors authorized a \$3.5 million line of credit in the fall of 2022 to complete the initial phase of renovations and campus improvements detailed in our campus master plan and utilize a fully mobilized Rodda Construction team to save resources. These renovations included full rehabilitation of much of the older part of campus affectionately named the “Historic District.” The remodel and renovation of these spaces is ongoing and will provide dedicated K4-12 Visual Arts and Ceramics studios, new administrative offices and work space for Human Resources and IT, as well as The Legacy Room, a mid-sized meeting space that will help support many functions on campus such as student government meetings, new parent meetings, board meetings, and other uses that inevitably arise throughout the school year.

As Dr. Sligh stated last year in his Annual Report letter, “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, fees, and donations. We want to provide the information necessary to promote fiscal confidence among all our stakeholders and ministry partners.” While the leadership has changed, this commitment remains steadfast.

This commitment is evident in the annual audit ordered by the LCS Board of Directors as part of their fiduciary responsibility. A copy of this audit is available to our families and employees in the LCS Business Office. The Board Finance Committee, as a reflection of its faithful stewardship, oversees the annual budget process to ensure that all revenue generated through tuition, fees, and donations supports the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan initiatives and critical areas of need as they arise.

To each member of our community who continues to support our efforts to fulfill our mission “to educate children in the light of God’s Word to prepare them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, service and worship” we say, “Thank You.” Thank you for being faithful partners on behalf of the 1130 students that make up The Viking Nation. It is a wonderful time to be a member of this vibrant community.

If you have any questions regarding the data presented or any aspect of the school’s financial operation, please feel free to contact us and we will follow up with you in a timely manner.

With great appreciation for your partnership and your prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryant M. Black". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Bryant M. Black  
Head of School

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## OUR MISSION



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.







## LCS AT A GLANCE: 2022-2023



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 (FHSA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), Florida Vocal Association (FVA), Florida School Music Association (FSMA)

### ARTS

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

### FACULTY

- Teachers maintain professional certifications in their fields
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 14:1
- 39 teachers hold master's degrees
- 25 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

- More than 30 teams in 14 sports, grades 6-12
- 27 State titles, 26 State runners-up
- Outstanding on-campus stadium, athletic center and gymnasium

# CLASS OF 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



THE CLASS OF 2023 WAS THE 51ST GRADUATING CLASS OF LAKELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. COMPRISED OF 97 SENIORS, 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 96% of the graduates from the Class of 2023 have pursued post-secondary education in schools across America including the University of Florida, Florida State University, Auburn University, Michigan State University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Cedarville University and more. In the Class of 2023, 72% of students matriculated to four-year universities and 25% to two-year colleges., Palm Beach Atlantic University, Cedarville University and more. In the Class of 2023, 72% of students matriculated to four-year universities and 25% to two-year colleges.



**\$4,472,215**  
EARNED IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS



**12,452**  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
HOURS EARNED BY THE  
CLASS



**97 PERCENT**  
PURSUED POST-  
SECONDARY  
EDUCATION



**31 PERCENT**  
QUALIFIED FOR FLORIDA  
BRIGHT FUTURES  
SCHOLARSHIP







# ENROLLMENT DATA, 2022-2023



LAKELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WAS BLESSED WITH ANOTHER YEAR OF STRONG ENROLLMENT FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR AS FAMILIES CONTINUE TO DESIRE A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN. AS NEW FAMILIES JOIN THE LCS COMMUNITY, MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING EDUCATED IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD.

## 2021-2022 TOTAL: 1121

- Elementary: 486
- Middle School: 255
- High School: 380

## 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

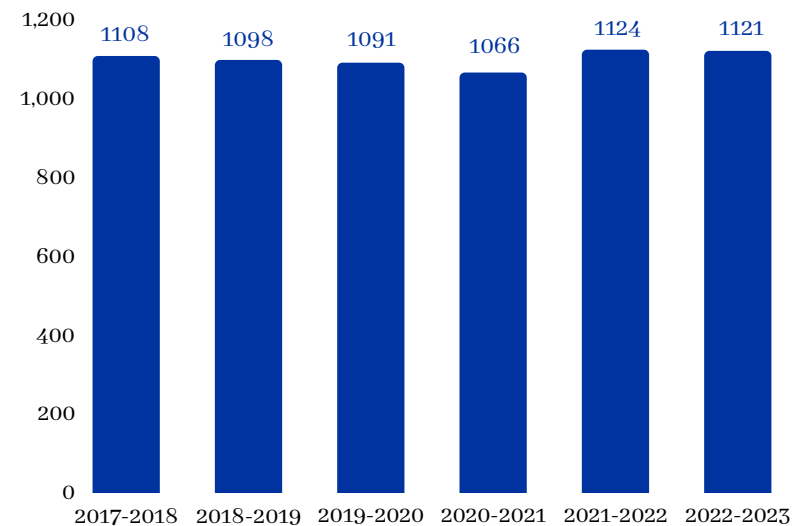
- Elementary: 443
- Middle School: 272
- High School: 376

## 2018-2019 TOTAL: 1098

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

## 2017-2018 TOTAL: 1108

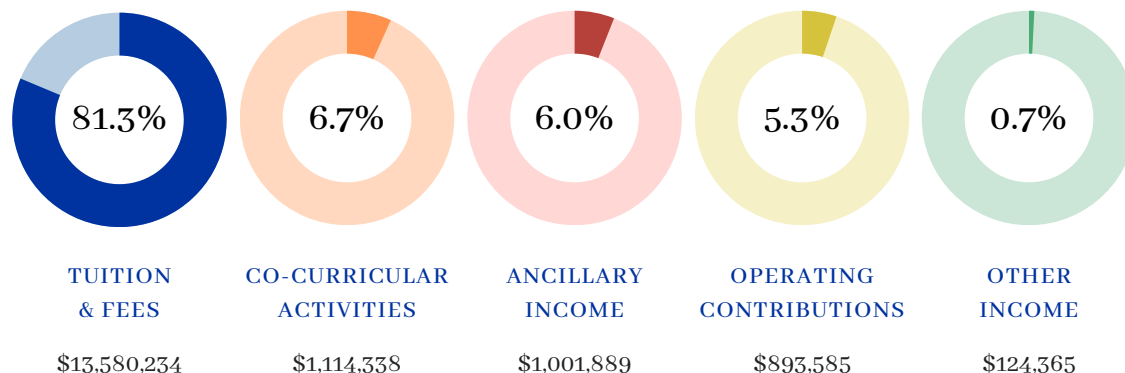
- Elementary: 455
- Middle School: 252
- High School: 385
- Discovery: 15



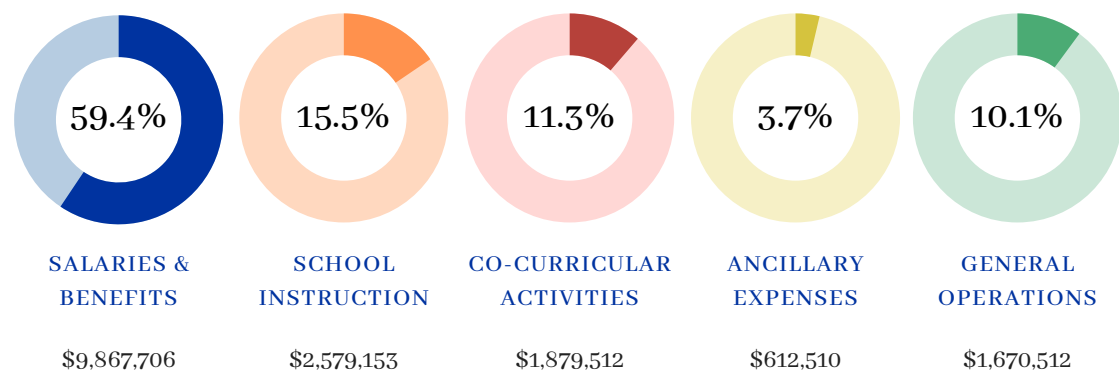
# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT, 2022-2023



## TOTAL OPERATING INCOME: \$16,714,111



## TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES: \$16,609,393



*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.*







## 2022-2023: 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 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR, TOTAL GIVING TO THE VIKING FUND WAS \$102,278.



### 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 8th annual event was “A Night Out”. Proceeds from this event provided needed tuition assistance to families with a demonstrated financial need. Guests gathered at Haus 820 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 2022 VOYAGES & VICTORIES GALA RAISED \$402,000 FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID.



### RISE ENDOWMENT

The RISE Institute is profoundly grateful for the donors who have given \$5.1 Million to fund the RISE Endowment, ensuring that the work of engaging and challenging students will continue far into the future. This endowment was established to help fund RISE faculty positions and equipment, allowing for the growth of RISE Institute programs. Now in its 14th year, the RISE Institute provides a wide range of elective courses and competitions including robotics and engineering, law and public policy, innovation, entrepreneurship, design, film and event planning. It also includes a student-run coffee shop and an on-campus farm.

GIFTS TO THE RISE ENDOWMENT IN 2022 TOTALED \$1,185,000.

# 2022-2023: A YEAR OF GENEROUS GIVING



OPERATING A THRIVING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL LIKE LCS IS EXPENSIVE. OUR NEEDS WILL ALWAYS EXCEED REVENUE FROM TUITION AND FEES. 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: 273 gifts | \$198,314
- Grandparents: 55 gifts | \$2,776,844
- Alumni: 33 gifts | \$59,135
- Alumni Parents: 30 gifts | \$110,075
- Employees: 812 gifts | \$105,025
- Other: 332 gifts | \$654,956

## GIVEN / PLEDGED BY FUND

- Financial Aid: 379 gifts | \$567,733
- Viking Fund: 767 gifts | \$102,279
- Capital Campaigns: 175 gifts | \$1,899,486  
*(Forging a Firm Foundation, Roger Evans Athletic Center)*
- RISE: 46 gifts | \$22,349
- RISE Endowment: 1 gift | \$1,185,000
- Other: 167 gifts | \$127,504



2022-2023  
TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS

1,535



2022-2023  
TOTAL GIVING

\$3,904,350





# 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/](http://www.lcsonline.org/support/)

## 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, Chief of institutional Advancement  
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