

Vision: Forward Update - 01/24/2020

A DYNAMIC LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

Our goal is “to equip our students with the necessary skills and intellectual framework to thrive and be successful in college and beyond by instituting, supporting, and promoting excellence in instruction and curricular development.”

- Our faculty and division heads have been working diligently in grade-level teams, academic departments, divisions, and as heads of each division to ensure vertical and horizontal consistency and excellence in classroom instruction and curricular development.
- Over the last twelve months, we have captured the “what” and “why” of each grade-level curricular offering (horizontal alignment). During the second semester of the 2019-20 school year, we are looking for gaps from one grade to the next (vertical alignment). We are developing a digital and hard-copy overview of our curriculum with digital access to the curriculum details of each grade level that inform the overview. We expect parents and prospective parents to have access to this important tool by the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.
- Relatedly, we are evaluating the Cardinal Learning Center. First, we are evaluating the CLC for how the Center assists students and parents. In addition we are evaluating how the Center equips faculty with the training tools to develop differentiated instructional strategies and curriculum design. The Director of the Learning Center is working with all three division heads to shape pre-service to focus on pedagogy (the methods and practice of teaching that ensure the learning of today’s students).
- To ensure inspiration, aspiration, and accountability to achieve our curricular, teaching, assessment, and student learning goals, we have researched and implemented a new and much more robust faculty evaluation system. Generally, this system is designed as an evaluation and support system: mutually establishing goals and evaluation criteria consistent with these strategic initiatives and then having evaluations throughout the year on progress toward these goals. We have established a close link between this new evaluation instrument and our professional development, on campus and off campus. This initiative is now in use.
- We are also embracing a new, more rigorous accreditation for our entire school as we engage with [CESA](#) (Council on Educational Standards and Accountability) to be our accountability partners in perpetually aspiring to excellence.

A VIBRANT STUDENT EXPERIENCE:

Much work is already in progress to “engage students in a breadth of opportunities that encourages them to discover and hone their God-given gifts and talents, explore their passions, develop awareness and understanding of self and others, and engage with adults and peers in a mutually supportive environment that fosters life-long relationships.”

- One of the most visible action plans emanating from this goal this year has been the implementation of a house system in our Middle School. This places every Middle School student in one of four mixed-aged, mixed-generation houses promoting wisdom, faith, leadership, and service opportunities. Our faculty and leadership in the Lower School are currently developing a leadership model that incorporates developmentally appropriate leadership skills for all Lower School students. The Upper School leadership, inclusive of the Bible department, is re-imagining the Advocates program, building a strong advisory that integrates faith, leadership, and biblical principles.
- Relatedly, you will soon see a digital prayer guide with opportunities and calendar housed on our new website and have those opportunities pushed out to our community. This is an outgrowth of the action plan to enhance and deepen our culture of prayer by bringing it into focus, engaging our board, leadership, and faculty/staff on a regular and on-going basis. The Spiritual and Cultural Excellence Committee of the Board is taking the lead on this particular action plan.
- This summer we partnered with [Engaged Schools](#) to accomplish four goals:
 - a. Equip our teachers in teaching and discipling students toward spiritual maturity,
 - b. Identify spiritual needs and growth barriers for students at each stage of their spiritual journey,
 - c. Utilize an accurate assessment tool for students to examine their own hearts and to inform teachers and students of their spiritual growth, and
 - d. Evaluate, adopt, and align our 6th-12th grade Bible curriculum and chapel programming.

AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY:

We strive to “build and sustain a community comprised of students, faculty, staff, Board members, parents and alumni from diverse backgrounds, united by a shared love of Christ and common commitment to FWC’s mission.”

- We have begun the process of connecting Admissions, division heads, and leadership team to more clearly define, communicate, and adhere to admissions standards and processes. The Finance Committee of the Board, our Business Office, and Admissions Team are working closely to reassess the amount and allocation of tuition assistance to ensure the best and most appropriate use of these funds.
- Our Development team has already increased our use of appropriate media platforms to communicate with parents, prospective parents, alumni, and friends of FWC. Recent short videos along with our Strategic Plan and Annual Report booklets highlight these improvements.
- We have continued to improve and expand our intentional opportunities for parents and/or parents and faculty to socialize with one another. In particular, our second annual Christmas Tree Lighting and reception prior to the Lower & Middle School Christmas Concerts should be highlighted as an example.
- An outgrowth of this major goal of a more engaged community is our Board of Trust’s leadership in engaging FWC with other like-minded Christ-centered, college preparatory schools of excellence through membership in and accreditation by [CESA](#) (Council on Educational Standards and Accountability)

ROBUST INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND ADVANCEMENT:

We intend to “create an environment and associated plan that advances institutional sustainability, engendering philanthropic support.”

- This year’s “Going Places” Dinner & Auction is a powerful example of success in strengthening our philanthropic culture at FWC. We appreciate so much our auction leadership and volunteers for inspiring and leading us to raise in excess of \$215,000, which is funding the a complete overhaul of student classroom furniture throughout campus. The furniture was chosen as a powerful tool to move us forward with our goal of creating a more “Dynamic Learning Environment.”
- A key part of the strategic action steps for this important goal within ***Vision: Forward*** is to hire a new Assistant Head for Advancement to lead our community toward institutional sustainability and advancement; that search is in process and working in tandem with the new Head of School search so that the Head-elect can have input on the final decision.
- Per the ***Vision: Forward*** update letter by Mr. Feray and Mr. Cheeseman (sent via email to parents on 1/24/2020), we are taking important next steps in the development of our master plan with planning for renovations/additions to the Lower School and Middle School buildings, playscape between the two divisions, and Girls’ softball and Boys’ baseball stadiums. There will be future updates on the planning of additional elements in the campus master plan coming in the near future.

[Click to view the entire Strategic Plan](#)