



### **Our Purpose, Mission, and Vision**

Being a part of the NDCS family means joining together with a community having a common purpose, mission, and vision for the education of our children. When a family enrolls students at NDCS, they are agreeing to partner with the administration, faculty, and fellow parents in achieving the following guiding values:

#### **Our Core Purpose:**

We exist to further the Kingdom of Heaven in the world by achieving the promise of Psalm 145:4 “One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.”

#### **Our Mission:**

We are a Pre-K-12 school that develops disciples who are spiritually and academically prepared to impact their world for Christ.

#### **Our Vision:**

NDCS is a community of parents and teachers, which prepares graduates who:

- live in their private and public lives with the observable character of Christ,
- are prepared to discern and pursue their life’s calling wherever it may lead them, and
- carry a biblical worldview through which they will impact the world into which they are sent for Christ.



## **Our Story**

Northern Dauphin Christian School (NDCS) was established in 1995 by a group of parents determined to provide a Christ-centered education option in a traditional classroom setting in the Northern Dauphin County area. They came together in prayer to discern God's plan for creating a Biblically integrated academic setting, partnering together with parents and churches to help cultivate disciples to further His kingdom. Through the vision and hard work of these few parents, an independent organization was formed and incorporated as the Northern Dauphin County Christian School Association (NDCCSA).

They then began making preparations for the 1995-1996 school year. By faith, the Board hired Sonya Hogsett as our first employee and enrolled four kindergarten students who started class on August 28, 1995. David's Community Bible Church graciously gave us (literal) room to grow within their facility, and was our only campus for the first 18 years.

Since then, the Lord has blessed that mustard seed and guided those in the administration to press onward to reach those original goals. Little by little, more elementary grades were added to meet the increasing desire for the Christian education NDCS was providing. (A few of those original teachers are still with us to this day!)

As some of those first students were approaching their teenage years, we opened a middle school program to meet the increasing need. Then, in 2013, a high school program was added. In 2015 we gave our first diplomas to a graduating class of four students.

Our early education center opened its doors at the David's Church campus in 2008, expanding our ministry to Pre-K aged students. Our three and four-year-old classes became part of the overall ministry at NDCS, and has continuously outgrown its allotted space ever since.

To accommodate the growth of this program, and the continued growth of our Middle and High School programs, Free Grace Brethren in Christ opened its facility to us for the creation of an Upper Grade Level Campus in 2016. Then, in 2021 (to allow for even further growth), Hillside Christian Fellowship became the new home of our Early Childhood Center, making us the three- campus school we are today.



## **Our Philosophy of Education**

Northern Dauphin Christian School, remaining true to the heart and purpose of its founding families, believes that parents are to be the primary instructors of their children. God has given families the responsibility to *bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*, and God has given parents the grace and wisdom for raising their own children. No school should try to replace that role, but rather be a resource and support to parents.

***NDCS is a school that partners with parents in the discipling of our children***, and this is reflected in everything from our policies and procedures to our curriculum. It can be seen in how parents and teachers partner together by communicating and feeding back to one another as our students' hearts and minds are cultivated in Christ. We view ourselves as stewards of parent's children while they are in our classrooms, and honor parental authority in all we do.

***We believe that a Christian education should primarily focus on building the character of Christ in its students***; our end product should be young men and women who live with an observable character of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Our school will have the kind of discipline which produces disciples, and our school's culture should reflect the reality that we are a *Christian* community. As one beloved Head of School used to say, "We are more concerned about our students getting into Heaven than Harvard."

***We believe that Christ should be at the center of all learning***. This means all classes, from Literature to Physics, will be taught within a biblical framework. The bible is the main textbook for every subject, and we believe that all knowledge points back to the God who created everything about which we learn. A biblical worldview is a critical component of our curriculum, and is interwoven in our classes from elementary grades on through graduation.

***We believe that a Christian education should emphasize excellence in all we do***. We instruct with rigorous academic standards, believing that students can rise up to the level of whatever reasonable expectations are laid before them. God is glorified when His children put their whole hearts into every area of their lives, and during school age years that means learning well. Our students will be prepared in our school for whatever call of God lies ahead, and our graduates will be prepared for college and career as they grow and discern the call of God in their lives.