

## **Clovis Christian Schools Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General Information**

**Q: What qualifications (degrees) and training do your teachers have?**

**A: Every teacher at Clovis Christian Schools (CCS) has at least a Bachelor's degree in education or a Bachelor's degree in a specific subject (i.e., history, chemistry) from an accredited university.** For those who do not have a degree in education, graduate leveling courses are required in education to meet ACSI certification requirements. This process is similar to alternative licensure in public education. Seven teachers currently on our staff have earned Master's degrees. Although this data changes over time depending on new staff needs and staff turnover, CCS always seeks to hire highly qualified faculty who possess at least a Bachelor's degree in education.

Both top-level administrators at CCS have a doctorate in education from an accredited university. The Superintendent/High School Principal has earned a doctorate in educational leadership, and the Principal for grades PK-6 has earned a doctorate in curriculum and instruction.

**Q: Are you accredited?**

**A: Yes, we hold the highest accreditation possible.** We are jointly accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and AdvancED ([www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org)), which is a rigorous process that requires CCS to meet 11 standards, including a continuous improvement standard. The State of New Mexico recognizes and rewards us with an accreditation certificate based on meeting these high standards and achieving, as well as maintaining, accreditation status. As a result, CCS awards the same high school diploma to its graduates that all New Mexico public and charter schools award. We underwent our five-year accreditation in March of 2012. At that time, CCS earned several commendations and the ACSI/AdvancED team coined CCS "The Gem on the Prairie" for its quality educational programs and practices, including a strong focus on continuous school improvement.

**Q: What percentage of your students goes on to college? What are their ACT scores?**

**A: Our 4-year high school graduation rate is 100%. At the same time, our four-year average percentage of students attending college is 92%.** Some of our graduates have joined the military or chosen to go into the mission field for one year before pursuing a higher education. 100% of our 2014 and 2015 graduating class are attending college. When it comes to the ACT, CCS students perform well. Our 4-year average on the ACT is 22.52. In 2014, our senior class set a new school record with an average ACT score of 24.8, and in 2015, the average score was 23.25. Several of our students have even posted ACT scores ranging between 30 and 34. Every senior at CCS garners at least one college scholarship, and, in some cases these cover the full cost of tuition and fees when choosing a New Mexico college or university.

**Q: What do you see as making CCS special or different from the traditional public schools?**

**A: Family-Centered Environment:** CCS is a family-centered environment. Parents come and go freely and play a highly active role in their children's education. CCS recognizes parents as the first and foremost educators in the lives of their children. We consider ourselves blessed and honored to be their partners in education. Our Parents Assisting in Christian Education (PACE) group is a prime example of the best in parent involvement. These parents support classroom learning and activities, coordinate special events, lead our annual Eagle Discount Card drive to raise needed funds for the school, and engage in strategic and action team planning to move the school forward.

**Focus on the Whole Child:** CCS focuses on developing the whole child: intellectual, spiritual, physical, and social. As a Christian school, we are able to teach to the Holy Spirit who resides in the life of a Christian child. This is unique to Christian education. Through Christian, Biblically-based lessons and activities, students at CCS learn to live in accordance with a Christ-like lifestyle that reflects an unchanging standard against which they can measure their words, decisions, and actions.

**Reading & Writing Across the Curriculum:** In grades 7-12, students read the classics and write research papers, as well as continually engage in expository, descriptive, persuasive, and narrative writing across the curriculum. We teach MLA, Chicago, and APA citation styles. In grades Pre-K-4, Interactive Writing and Picturing Writing are signature approaches to writing success at CCS. CCS also teaches cursive writing, a lost art form in many schools today. Cursive begins at grade 2 and continues to be developed and refined until students master this form of writing.

**Small Class Sizes:** CCS offers small class sizes, with an average of 18 students in grades 1-3, 19 students in grades 4-6, 11 students in grades 7-8, and 8 students in grades 9-12. Pre-K never exceeds a maximum of 20 students, with an educational assistant assigned to the classroom when there are more than 10 students enrolled. We maintain the same maximum number of students in kindergarten, although our average is 18 students. Each classroom of at least 15 students is provided with an educational assistant.

**CCS Summer Family Literacy Project:** The CCS Summer Family Literacy Project (SFLP) was developed for grades PK-12 because time-honored research shows that students who read in the summer are better prepared academically for the next school year and for life! CCS currently requires students in grades K-12 to read high quality books, poems, or literature selections each summer. CCS also encourages students to remain active in their math skill development throughout the summer months by consistently completing learning activities on IXL ([www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com)). Plans are underway now to expand our SFLP by adding mathematics in the summer of 2016.

**Athletics:** CCS is the only school in southeastern New Mexico to offer an archery program. Students in grades 4-12 may participate in this exciting activity. CCS currently welcomes homeschoolers who complete an application and are selected to participate in our archery program.

**3D Printing & Design:** CCS is currently the only school in southeastern New Mexico to offer a 3D Printing & Design course in grades 9-12. This class incorporates the use of the 3D CADD system whereby students acquire the knowledge needed to build and print 3D files. Students master the essentials of 3D printing—knowing parts, functions, and safety rules of the 3D printer, preparing print files for computer to printer transfer, using the scanner to create 3D object files, and loading the 3D printer with printing filament. In addition, students learn the power of 3D printing in medicine, ecosystems, space technology, and everyday use.

**Q: Do you offer transportation to/from school?**

**A: Yes.** Our CCS school bus transports children to and from CAFB and Portales daily. The pick-up and drop off point for CAFB is the Youth Center. The pick-up/drop off point for Portales is in the Wal-Mart parking lot behind the Hibbett Sports building.

**Q: Do students wear uniforms?**

**A: No, CCS has never required students to wear uniforms.** We follow a conservative dress code that recognizes individual fashion preferences while adhering to modesty and propriety that is becoming of a Christian.

**Q: What are some of the school's successes?**

**A: CCS has experienced success on various levels.** In 2014, our senior class set a new school record with an average ACT score of 24.8, and in 2015, the average score was 23.25. We have had individual students score between a 30 and 34 ACT over the past several years, and our four-year average on the ACT is 22.52.

We have also performed well on the *TerraNova3* test beginning with its implementation in 2012. CCS considers two key academic performance criteria when identifying and recognizing students meriting the ***President's Award for Educational Excellence***: 1) individual performance on a nationally recognized standardized test (*TerraNova3*) in the areas of math **and/or** reading, and 2) academic excellence as reflected by each individual's GPA for the current school year. Due to increasing levels of student performance on the *TerraNova3*, in 2014, CCS raised the benchmark for Gold and Silver Level Presidential Awardees to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or above. This year, at the annual awards ceremony, CCS recognized three levels of educational excellence:

- *Gold Level President's Award for Educational Excellence*:
  - Held a 3.5 to a 4.0 GPA during the 2014-2015 school year
  - Performed in the top 10% of the nation on the *TerraNova3* in the areas of math **and** reading
- *Silver Level President's Award for Educational Excellence*:
  - Held a 3.5 to a 4.0 GPA during the 2014-2015 school year
  - Performed in the top 10% of the nation on the *TerraNova3* in the areas of math **or** reading
- *High Academic Award for Educational Excellence*:
  - Held a 3.5 to a 4.0 GPA during the 2014-2015 school
  - Performed in the top 15% of the nation on the *TerraNova3* in the areas of math **or** reading

In 2014, almost 50% of all CCS students tested on the *TerraNova3* were awarded the Gold, Silver, or High Academic Award for Educational Excellence! Our average increased in 2015 to 53%. In 2015, one-fourth or 25% of CCS students scored better than 90% of all students in the nation in reading or math on the *TerraNova3*.

CCS students have also garnered other academic or athletic awards:

1. In 2013, a CCS 5th grader won both the Curry County and State Scripps Spelling Bees and placed 43rd in the National Scripps Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. One year later, CCS placed 1st and 3rd at the Curry County Spelling Bee and placed fourth at the State Scripps Spelling Bee. CCS has won the Curry County Spelling Bee since that time, with a single student reigning as the Queen Bee, making five consecutive trips to the state championship. By 2016, she had won her 2<sup>nd</sup> state spelling championship, and had also garnered one 3<sup>rd</sup> place and two 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes.
2. At the Regional Science Fair, our students have taken first place in their respective categories, while also garnering the Broadcom Masters Award in Microbiology, Cellular & Molecular

Biology, Behavioral & Social Sciences, and Engineering. In addition, one CCS student won the Army Award. At the 2014 New Mexico State Science Fair, one of our 8th graders was presented the NM Optometric Award.

3. CCS began competing in the Martin Luther King, Jr. citywide competition in 2014. In both the 2014 and 2015 competitions, out of 23 possible awards, Clovis Christian School students earned 17 of them both years including two CCS students at the senior level tying for first place in the 2014 speech contest, which allowed both winners to present at the citywide breakfast. Again in 2015, a CCS student at the senior level won the coveted citywide speech contest and was able to present at the annual breakfast.
4. In regards to athletics, CCS has frequently achieved district championship status in basketball, volleyball, and track. In 2010, the CCS 6-man football team won the state championship and, in 2011, was state runner-up.
5. 2013-14 marked our first year in archery. Out of 30 teams competing at the state championship, CCS garnered 4<sup>th</sup> place. At the 2015 NM State Championship NASP Tournament, our archery team rocked the house, as we took 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the High School and Middle School levels and 4<sup>th</sup> place at the elementary level. In addition, we earned Top Shooter Elementary boy and Top Shooter Middle School girl. At the 2016 NM State Championship NASP Tournament, our high school archery team garnered 3<sup>rd</sup> place, while our elementary archery team won the state championship with a team score of 2,857, making this the highest elementary team school score in the NASP Tournament history! In addition to having six shooters make the top ten shooters list, we earned Top Shooter Elementary boy, out of 226 elementary boys, and Top Shooter Middle School girl, out of 192 elementary girls. Both of these elementary school shooters set a new state record for earning the highest scores of any male or female competing at the elementary level. This sports program continues to grow and experience even more success, as almost 60 student athletes have taken up the desire to be archers of CCS.

## **Enrollment**

### **Q: When can we register our child?**

**A:** You may register your child 12 months out of the year between the hours of 7:30 to 4:30, Monday through Friday, when school is in session, and 8:00 to 4:00, or by special appointment, Monday through Friday, during the summer months.

### **Q: How do we go about getting a tour of the school?**

**A:** To tour CCS, you simply need to call our office at 935-2279 or contact us via email ([lclayton@cloviseagles.com](mailto:lclayton@cloviseagles.com) or [ldamour@cloviseagles.com](mailto:ldamour@cloviseagles.com)). We welcome the opportunity to showcase our school at a time that is convenient for you!

### **Q: Is there an interview process?**

**A: Yes.** There is a rigorous interview process to enroll your child at CCS, which involves reviewing and discussing the student's completed application, academic record, high school transcript (when applicable), standardized test scores, and discipline records. In addition, we may elect to administer STAR Math and Reading tests, or the WRAT test, which can take up to 1.5 hours total time. These assessments provide immediate results, which we share with parents and the students in determining the best placement. We also discuss the student and family's Christian faith and church attendance/involvement. We provide an overview of Clovis Christian Schools' statement of faith,

mission, objectives, Parent's Pledge, and Student Code of Honor (grades 7-12) to ensure the school is a good fit for prospective families.

**Q: What is the enrollment cost? Are there payment options?**

**A: The enrollment cost is as follows:**

- Pre-K = \$3,800 + \$185 registration fee
- K-6 = \$3,950 + \$185 registration fee
- 7-12 = \$4,350 + \$185 registration fee

**A: We offer the following payment options:**

- Single payment plan due by mid-August each year (\$100 discount)
- Semester payment plan, with the 1<sup>st</sup> payment due by mid-August and the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment due by January 31 of each school year (\$50 discount)
- Monthly draft payment plan. Payments are budgeted over 12 months or less, and an annual bank draft transaction fee of \$43 is required. The monthly payment can be set up either on the 5<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. It can also be split in half and paid on both the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**A: Clovis Christian Schools also offers multiple student discounts. Families with more than one child attending CCS receive the following tuition discounts:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> child (oldest) pays full tuition
- 2<sup>nd</sup> child receives 10% discount
- 3<sup>rd</sup> child receives 10% discount
- 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> child receives 75% discount

**A: Clovis Christian Schools partners with a third-party vendor, Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST).** FAST does not decide whether financial assistance will be given or how much to give; rather FAST provides a need-based financial aid analysis service which includes a recommendation of what a family should reasonably contribute toward tuition. All information from FAST is kept confidential. The Financial Aid/Scholarship Committee reviews the results based on available funds in the Scholarship account. Upon final approval by the Superintendent, families are notified of the financial aid offers. Because CCS realizes the mobile nature of our military families, we set aside a portion of all scholarship donations for those applicants who may qualify for financial assistance.

**Q: How soon can we send records to the school?**

**A: You can have records sent to CCS as soon as you complete the enrollment process and have signed the Release for Transfer of Records Form.** For students who are completing their current year at one school but looking to begin the new school year with CCS, we can request records once all promotions, high school credits, and final attendance records have been recorded.

## Curriculum

**Q: How is religion integrated into the curriculum and school day? Is it of a specific denomination?**

**A: CCS does not teach religion or any religious doctrine that reflects a specific denomination.** We focus on what unifies us, not what divides us. We are an interdenominational, Christian school that serves at least 15 different denominations. We teach Christ and His gospel through two avenues: an integrated Christian, Biblical worldview and Bible classes, which occur at every grade level, PK-12.

**Q: What foreign language classes do you offer? (at what grades)**

**A: We offer Spanish in grades 9-12.** We continue to offer Japanese based on student interest. Our juniors and seniors also have an opportunity to enroll in any foreign language offered through CCC or ENMU-Roswell.

**Q: Do you have field trips? (by grade)**

**A: Yes,** we engage in varied field trips by grade level that are relevant to units of study. These occur locally, regionally, and out-of-state depending on the grade level. In grades PK-4, we have two field trips each year. Fifth grade takes one field trip per year and that is usually an area event. Science classes, in grades 7-12, have traditionally taken a field trip in Earth Science, Life Science, and Zoology when offered.

**Q: Do you have dual/concurrent enrollment, and if so, at what grades?**

**A: Yes. We offer concurrent enrollment beginning as early as 9<sup>th</sup> grade and continuing through the student's senior year.** CCS has an agreement with Clovis Community College and ENMU-Roswell to provide college classes to our students at no cost. All ENMU-Roswell courses are provided online, while CCC provides in-class and online opportunities. It is important to note that every student who is a candidate for concurrent enrollment courses must pass the Accuplacer, a college readiness exam.

**Q: Do you allow students to learn at higher levels or take a class offered at a higher-grade level?**

**A: Absolutely!** We believe each student's academic program of study should reflect his or her mastery of knowledge and skills rather than moving students through grade levels or courses according to the traditional age-grade level model. As a result, for example, in 2014, two of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students completed Pre-Algebra, all but one of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students completed Algebra I and will move into Geometry, two 8<sup>th</sup> graders successfully passed World History, traditionally a Grade 10 course, and one of our sophomores carried a junior-class load in all but two of her classes.

**Q: Do you offer advanced classes?**

**A: Yes.** We have offered AP classes in history, math, and English in the past. However, most of our students and families are now opting for dual credit/concurrent enrollment courses since they can earn college and high school credit simultaneously. College courses are considered honors courses at CCS in the core content areas and are on a five-point rather than a four-point scale.

**Q: To what degree is your curriculum set at the elementary, middle, and high school levels?**

**A: Our curriculum is set at every level.** CCS is not a textbook-driven school that allows a selected textbook adoption by grade level or teacher to determine student-learning goals. Instead, we follow a specific set of standards that reflect rigor and cultivate analytical thinking. All instructional materials or resources are evaluated and then selected with the sole purpose of effectively implementing and staying true to our challenging student learning outcomes.

We recently determined to align our curriculum to the Virginia Standards of Learning (VSOL) after "test-driving" the Common Core State Standards for three years. Before that time, we had aligned all curricula to the New Mexico State Standards. We found that gaps existed in both sets of standards, as well as lacking the desired rigor for students excelling in mathematics, science, and the language arts. We will continue to follow the New Mexico State Standards in the teaching of New Mexico

history. As we align to the VSOL, we will also integrate Christian, Biblical worldview learning objectives to every curriculum map and enhance the VSOL to include some additional learning outcomes that we believe are essential but lacking in state-adopted standards.

**Q: What kind of testing is done (i.e., SBAs), and at what grade levels?**

**A: CCS currently administers the TerraNova3, a standardized, norm-referenced test, annually in grades 3, 5, 7, and 8-10 to determine student achievement and growth.** In grade 10, we also administer the PSAT and in grades 11-12 students take the ACT Exam. Please note that all students at CCS must score at least a 20 on the ACT to graduate, beginning with the class of 2015.

**Extracurricular Activities**

**Q: What sports are offered?**

**A:** We currently offer the following sports at CCS:

Coed Archery (4-12)  
 Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball (9-12)  
 Boys and Girls Middle School Basketball (6-8)  
 Coed Varsity (9-12) and Middle School (6-8) Track  
 Girls Varsity (9-12) and Middle School (6-8) Volleyball  
 Middle School Cheerleading (6-8)  
 Varsity Cheerleading (9-12)

We are excited to begin offering Coed Soccer beginning in the fall of 2016.

**Q: Do you have a music program?**

**A: Yes.** We have a music and movement program provided at grades Pre-K-4, and we presently offer honor choir as an elective in grades 5-7.

**Q: Do you have an art program?**

**A: Yes.** We have an art program in grades K-4 and offer art as an elective in grades 8 -12.

**Q: Are there after school clubs (i.e., leadership, student government, math, art)?**

**A: Yes.** Student government and National Honor Society (NHS) either meet during the day or after school. Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Campus Ministry meets weekly during lunch. In the upcoming years, we will be analyzing and identifying academic- and arts-focused competitions via NMAA and ACSI. It is also important to note that CCS offers athletics outside the school day to allow students the opportunity to engage in more course offerings during the day.

**New to the Area, Military Families & Special Needs**

**Q: How can you accommodate an incoming student with an IEP or special need?**

**A:** At Clovis Christian, we evaluate every student with an active IEP or special need who would like to come to CCS. Every student is unique, and, as such, each student has to be evaluated on an individual basis. When a student comes with an active IEP, the Student Assistance Team (SAT) meets to review the IEP and determine if the student's needs can be met at CCS. The SAT committee is comprised of one of two principals, a master teacher, and a Certified Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology. A student who meets level A criteria would be accommodated at CCS, as by definition a level A student would qualify for speech-language therapy or be on an academic monitor. A student who meets level B criteria would need to be evaluated to determine if he/she is academically at a level where he/she

could handle the rigor of academia at CCS. Some students at level B might have a strong enough foundation where their needs could be met through accommodations and modifications; however, this would have to be determined on an individual basis.

CCS teams up with Eastern New Mexico University to provide speech-language pathology services through internship placements of master level students. Services provided by ENMU are on a voluntary basis and are provided without charge; however, it should be understood that these services are a blessing to the school and are not guaranteed from year to year. Services that are provided by the SLP staff include the following: Speech sound disorders or articulation (difficulty pronouncing sounds); language disorders, which reflect receptive language—challenges due to difficulty with what children hear and expressive language—challenges children experience in expressing themselves with words; cognitive-communication disorders, which relate to thinking skills, including perception, memory, awareness, reasoning, judgment, intellect, and imagination; stuttering (fluency) disorders, which reflect an interruption of the flow of speech that may include hesitations, repetitions, and prolongations of sounds or words; and voice disorders, which relate to the quality of voice that may include hoarseness, nasality, and volume (too loud or soft).

**Q: How flexible are you, in meeting a student’s needs, when they are coming from other states?**

**A: CCS is exceptional in this regard.** We carefully review each child’s records (including report cards, transcripts, and standardized test results), consider out-of-state specific courses and how we can transfer them to the CCS transcript, conduct an in-depth interview with each family, and place students in classes according to their demonstrated knowledge, skills, and ability. We do not place students in a CCS program of study according to their age. Each program of study is tailored to the student’s individual needs and respects the mobility of military children.

**Q: Do you recognize the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children?**

**A: Yes!** As it directly affects military children and their families, we endeavor to recognize and honor Articles I-VII of the Interstate Compact. These seven articles, as understood by CCS, are as follows: Purpose, Definitions, Applicability, Educational Records & Enrollment, Placement & Attendance, Eligibility, and Graduation. Although CCS is a private, Christian school, we also understand and respect the remaining Articles, VIII-XVIII, which directly relate to the organization, operation, powers, and duties of the Interstate Commission in each member state.

**Q: How will military children be prepared for their next move, with regard to curriculum and testing?**

**A:** We believe military children attending CCS will be well prepared for their next move with regard to curriculum and testing. We have found that many students who are new to CCS are one year behind our program of study at each grade level. This is due to our advanced core curricula. As outlined throughout this FAQ, our curricula in grades PK-12 reflect academic rigor and relevance, higher-order thinking skills, and challenging learning objectives. In grades 8-12, the ACT Assessment Program ensures every student is college ready due to mastering the knowledge and skills needed for college entry. Likewise, by employing the Accuplacer Test, CCS can determine which of our students meet the cut scores required for successful placement into college courses.