

Why We Chose Coastal Christian School for our Children

As a parent, the education of your children is a big responsibility. When you are a Christian parent – when the Lord tells us that our children are a gift from Him (Ps. 127:3) and that we are accountable to Him for them – it's a matter of eternal importance. And that's *one* of the reasons we are so thankful that we have a place like Coastal Christian School for our kids. There are many more reasons, and we'd like to share them with you.

1. **They are learning God's Truth.** Job 28: 23 & 28 says that "God alone understands the way to wisdom; He knows where it can be found, and this is what He says to all humanity: The fear of the Lord is true wisdom." Because God created wisdom, science, literature, mathematics, and language, why would we send our children to a school where He isn't allowed to be taught, or even mentioned? We want them to learn the truth of the world He created, but we also want them to learn that the ultimate purpose of their education is to glorify Him. We have found that at Coastal Christian School. From the kindergarten teacher who says, "Look at the beautiful day Jesus gave us!" to the volleyball coach whose highest goal is to "honor our Lord and Savior with our efforts, our abilities and our sportsmanship," CCS is teaching our children lessons that will eternally benefit them.
2. **The academics are top-notch.** In 2005, according to the Council for American Private Education, students in private religious schools outscored public school students on the SAT by an average of 53 points. A 2002 study by the National Center for Education Statistics stated that, among other things, "Private school students generally perform higher than their public school counterparts on standardized achievement tests, private high schools typically have more demanding graduation requirements than do public high schools, and private school students are more likely than public school students to complete a bachelor's or advanced degree by their mid-20s." Of course, these studies are generalized, but we can vouch for what we have seen at Coastal Christian. In the last two years alone, one Senior at CCS was a National Merit Scholar, and one scored in the top six percent in the state on the PSAT. Ninety percent of CCS graduates go on to four-year colleges – most of them Christian colleges.
3. **CCS has spent 30 years trying to build its Oak Park campus.** Some people might consider that fact a drawback: "Why has it taken them so long?" But we are thankful that, like Moses in the wilderness, CCS is waiting for God's timing, confident that "'Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass." (1 Thes. 5:24). We love that CCS has never lost hope that the gift the Lord gave them (the property on Oak Park) will come to fruition. And someday, when our children are attending classes on their new campus, they will have learned a valuable lesson about waiting on and trusting in God – no matter what.
4. **They are taught by caring, knowledgeable teachers who love the Lord and share that love with their students.** In Luke 6:40, Jesus said, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." Children spend seven hours of their day with their teachers – almost as much time as they spend with their parents. We want to make sure that everything our children are learning at school coincides with what we are teaching them at home; we are assured of that when our kids are at Coastal Christian School. Their teachers don't just teach Bible as a school subject; they incorporate it into every lesson. They explain mathematics as an extension of God's perfect design and order. They teach history as God's plan for the world. When their students are having problems, they teach them to look at the problems from the Lord's perspective. Most of all, they share their enthusiasm for Jesus Christ and the difference He has made in their lives; it's something that our children will want to emulate.

5. **The Elementary, Junior-High and High School students are on one campus.** This is a benefit that we didn't really expect or even begin to appreciate until recently. While the elementary and secondary students have separate sections of campus, separate events and separate breaks, there is still important fellowship. Secondary students work as teachers' aides in the younger classes, varsity athletes put on sports camps for the elementary students, and they pass each other on the way to classes and recess. The Christian example the older students provide for the younger cannot be overestimated. Our children see the Senior boys holding a Bible study after school, or the Senior class serving at the school's fundraising dinner, or the high school students being kind to the younger kids, leading worship in chapel, or earning scholarships to Christian colleges ... and that's who they want to be like! We love that they have such good, Godly role models in their lives everyday.
6. **They spend their days and are friends with kids from Christian families.** It is so good to drop our kids off at school and know that they are surrounded with kids whose families share the same Christian values that we practice at home. Of course problems arise from time to time, but they are resolved with the help of teachers who remind students to treat each other like Jesus would – to 'forgive one another,' 'be kind,' and 'speak the truth in love.' And as the years go by, our kids are forging friendships with fellow believers that we pray will last a lifetime.
7. **They are taught that America is a special country.** I remember one day I was waiting outside my daughter's classroom and heard her teacher talking about the colors in our flag: red is for bravery, blue is for justice and white is for purity. She elaborated, "Purity because America is the best country in world, with freedoms most other countries don't enjoy." We love that our children are taught about the unique blessing and purpose of America; that they learn about the Christian faith of its forefathers; that they are taught how to be good citizens of their country.
8. **CCS has a great sports program.** To be honest with you, this was not one of the initial reasons we chose Coastal Christian. When your kids are five, it's hard to start thinking about high school sports. But as our children have grown, we are getting more and more excited about the athletic opportunities that await them at CCS. The girl's varsity volleyball team has been the league champions for three years in a row, and has gone on to the CIF Southern Section championships the last two years. Our boy's varsity basketball team has reached the CIF finals twice in the last five years. But more than that, at CCS, every student who wants to play can be on the team and is treated with respect. The student-athletes are coached by caring Christian people, have supportive teammates, and are taught values that will serve them well, on and off the court for years to come.
9. **The staff is committed to providing an excellent educational experience for your children and family.** From the secretary who answers your phone call to the administration that is always willing to listen to your ideas or concerns, CCS is filled with people who want the Lord's best for your children. And that is a blessing.

There are many more reasons we chose Coastal Christian School, of course – and we're sure other parents have their own special reasons for sending their kids to CCS. We are so thankful for the education it is providing our children, and we pray the Lord blesses it for many years to come!