Guided by the “COMPASS” of God’s Word and Spirit, DCSS is on course to...

**LEAD** from the DCSS President
**EDUCATE** from the Academic Dean
**SERVE** from the Ministry Trips Director
**IMPACT** from our Families
**CONNECT** from the Alumni Relations Coordinator
**ADVANCE** from the Director of Advancement
**REMEMBER** from the President Emeritus

A Publication of the Dayton Christian School System
President Bob Elliott Talks about DCSS Leadership

During the August 17, 2011 Faculty and Staff Orientation, President Bob Elliott reiterated the historical significance the school system has had on so many lives. Bob is passionate about continuing the Mission of the school. His desire is to grow the number of children in Christian education by becoming the school of choice in the region. In order for this to happen, Bob believes the DCSS faculty and staff must continue to work together as the Body of Christ to pursue excellence in all areas. This is clearly evident in the following interview.

How do you feel God has prepared you to lead DCSS?
My 35 years of experience with several family businesses and as co-founder and director of Emmanuel Christian Academy have all been instrumental in equipping me to lead at DCSS. Also, I have gained tremendous insight from the successes and failures God has allowed me to experience. I am humbled by the privilege to serve my Lord and Savior through this great ministry, and I continually call on Him to pour out an abundance of grace on me. “Call upon me on the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me” (Psalm 50:15).

What has God taught you about His leadership since you became DCSS President?
I have definitely gained a deep appreciation of His servant/leader aspect. In fact, the greatest overall lesson that the Lord has taught me has been learning to serve others and to embrace humility. Part of embracing service and humility is gaining a deeper understanding of what Paul said: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

What leadership principles do you consider most important for DCSS?
Because I understand that I only bring certain gifts and abilities to my role, I intentionally surround myself with people whose strengths and talents complement mine. This principle reflects the Ephesians 4 model: “…to prepare God’s people for works and service, so that the body of Christ will be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12-13).

Can you tell us a little bit about the DCSS Board of Trustees and the importance of their leadership and guidance?
We are indeed blessed to have had devoted men and women serving on the board. As the board is restructured from a large board that served LMI to a smaller board that serves DCSS, the importance of their involvement, leadership, and guidance is as significant as ever. We benefit richly from the expertise and spiritual maturity of these dedicated individuals.

What leadership skills do DCSS administrators possess that you appreciate the most?
DCSS administrators are godly and effective leaders who are respected by their peers, parents, and students. I sincerely appreciate the way they model our Savior and strengthen our system with their diverse gifts. They love God wholeheartedly, are mature in Christ, have a deep knowledge and understanding of God’s Word, and carry a strong conviction for Christian education. Our school particularly benefits from a rich variety of backgrounds, personalities, and talents. Those qualities serve to create a unified, professional, and effective administrative team.

How are you challenging your principals and teachers to lead?
During our Faculty and Staff Orientation, I challenged all employees in three specific areas. First, we are to strive for excellence in every facet of the school and be customer service-minded (Philippians 4:8). Second, we need to understand the culture and times. Our children today are exposed to more godlessness and influences of the world than perhaps ever. Many have become desensitized and immune to this darkness; therefore, finally, we must be passionate about our calling. We have been equipped for these times by His grace. We need to continually press on toward the goal together, for our students, our families, our school, and primarily for God (Philippians 3:12-13).
A Vision from Our Academic Dean

As the Academic Dean of the Dayton Christian School System, I am excited about the direction and potential of this institution. God has prepared us to do powerful things. Both the Xenia campus and the Miamisburg campus are filled with rich opportunities for students. The Homeschool program is offering great support and improved programming for families. I am so impressed with the high quality of student work – from science fairs, to musicals, to athletic teams, to technology.

I have a vision to move to new levels of excellence and have declared 2011-2012 as the year of the curriculum. Mitzi Hanks, the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction, has a powerful plan to revisit, revise, and rejuvenate the school system’s current curriculum. Quality textbooks, state standard alignment, strong biblical integration, differentiated instruction, and challenging academic goals will all be considered in these revisions. Our commitment to a Christ-centered and biblically-grounded curriculum will not waver as we recognize the essential foundation of the Word of God. A high quality academic culture must be created as we strive to bring 21st century skills into the instruction of the school. Students with special needs, special talents, and special giftedness need to be enabled to discover their strengths.

My three-fold vision for our academic ministry reflects a desire to glorify God in every phase of our educational program.

First, it is imperative that we develop Servant Leaders (Matthew 20: 25-28). Administrators, teachers, and students must all understand and practice the elements of servant leadership. Second, we must challenge our school family to see the world as their place of outreach. The focus of our education should not be on college entrance or job preparation, but rather on global impact. As a school system, we need to be providing opportunities and challenges for our students to enter the world marketplace as ambassadors for Christ. Third, the school needs to be intentional about providing Philippians 4:8 academics (“…whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think of such things”). The idea is to offer a rigorous, high quality, well-rounded academic challenge that is firmly grounded in a biblical worldview. Quality and excellence should be the standard of every Christian school with the goal of positively influencing the spiritual growth of all students.

Dr. David Rough has served within the Dayton Christian School System for 24 years as a teacher, Assistant Principal, High School Principal, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and now as Academic Dean. He received an M.A. from Asbury Seminar and Grace Seminary and his Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Indiana Wesleyan University.
Insight from Our Ministry Trips Director

Since 1993, over 1400 students and over 370 adults have ministered in more than 16 different countries and in more than 14 different states on a Dayton Christian School System mission trip. DCSS is still on course to create service opportunities for its students. This school year we anticipate between 40-50 students venturing on one of our mission trips to either Costa Rica, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Namibia, or New York City.

Our school has a strong commitment to helping our students develop God’s perspective on life. We want our students to embrace a biblical worldview and to know that God is not only the God of America but of the entire world, for which He died.

By directing these trips over the years, I’ve concluded a couple of things: First, most people go into a ministry trip expecting to change the lives of those they are helping. The surprise comes when the person doing the ministering is greatly changed himself. Mission trip experiences change students’ lives—guaranteed! As one student reported: “God definitely taught me multiple things on my trip. When I took a step back and looked at my life, I realized that it isn’t all about me and my problems. There are people all over the world who are hurting.”

Second, mission trips take students out of their comfort zones and away from everyday distractions, allowing them to broaden their view of God, the world, and His purpose for their lives. One parent said her daughter “saw that God wants to use her to reach out to others. She is growing in the knowledge and understanding that God has a real plan for her life.” Another parent of one of our graduates who is now involved in a major sports ministry concluded that “The seed of missions planted in him here at DC has taken root in his heart, and he is now planting seeds in the hearts of athletes in Austria. Thank you for providing such wonderful opportunities for growth.”

On behalf of our students, I would like to personally thank those of you who have supported our students in their mission efforts with your prayers and monetary gifts. Your sacrifices have truly blessed and changed their lives as well as those to whom they have ministered.

If you are interested in supporting the ministry trip efforts of DCSS or want more information, please contact Nancy at nsnook@daytonchristian.com or visit www.daytonchristian.com or www.xeniachristian.com and click on “Ministry Trips.”

Nancy Snook has worked with Dayton Christian School System since 1991 and has served as the Ministry Trips Director for the past 10 years. She received a B.A. in Physical Education and Health from Cedarville University, an M.S. in Exercise Physiology from the University of Dayton, and an A.A.S. in American Sign Language Interpreting from Sinclair Community College. She has led 21 mission trips since 1993.
Testimonies from the DCSS Family

It is God whose impact is most formidable and pivotal in our lives, but for some strange reason, He often chooses to use people and organizations as the vehicles through which His impressions are made. DCSS is keenly aware that in spite of our weaknesses and challenges, God has positioned us for the past 49 years to be an institution of influence—partially by nature, being an educational system, but also by design and commission. We are humbled to share these testimonies from our family and friends as to how God has used DCSS to impart the truth and character of Christ.

“DC has positively influenced me by making available strong Christian friends and a unique Christian academic environment where I can strive for excellence.”

“The teachers at DC are caring and inspiring. The academics are challenging. Chapels are amazing.”

“My daughter has learned countless lessons during her years at XCHS. But the greatest lesson she has learned, through your input and ours, is how to love the Lord her God with all of her heart soul, mind, and strength and to love her neighbor as herself. She is ready to be a beacon of light to a lost world! And we are ecstatic about that.”

“God has richly blessed our family in the eight years we have been enrolled in the Dayton Christian Homeschool program. This is a truly unique program that combines much of the flexibility of homeschooling with access to the resources and activities of an established school system. Our boys have been enriched by their exposure to Christian teachers and coaches as they have participated in the Homeschool program as well as in band and athletics on campus.”

“Although our children are adults now, they are still connected to DCSS and the friends they made there. They enjoyed so much their academic, athletic, social, and spiritual experiences at DC, XC, and in the Homeschool program and are thankful that the schools prepared them for their careers in missions, business, and coaching.”

A Word from the New Alumni Relations Coordinator

Excitement is building now that DCSS is on course to connect with its nearly 5,000 graduates. As the newly hired Alumni Relations Coordinator, I will be working fulltime to serve our Alumni family. With a lack of consistent communication and the absence of a central point of contact in the past, it has been very difficult for graduates to feel connected to their Alma Mater. Our goal, as we move toward the 50th Anniversary of Dayton Christian Schools, is to finally establish a vibrant, interactive, and lasting Alumni Association!

To kick-off this initiative, a DCHS 70s Decade Alumni Reunion was held during DC Homecoming Weekend, September 23rd & 24th. More than 80 graduates from the 1970s were joined by their families and former teachers (many for the first time in over 30 years), for a very special celebration. “Our reunion weekend was an amazing testament to God’s faithfulness in the lives of classmates,” exclaimed ’74 graduate Dawn Reynolds Neatherton. “Many of us have been through some pretty rough times - whether illness, loss of a spouse or child, or any of a long list of trials. Nonetheless, we were still able to come together and rekindle the real love and caring that permeated the halls of DCS so many years ago. We still share that common bond in Jesus Christ!”

Going forward, I will be tasked with bridging the past to the present by refreshing our outdated alumni database, proactively offering planning and support services to class reunion organizers, and participating in the facilitation and execution of the year-long DCSS 50th Year Anniversary festivities.

DCSS Alumni Relations : “Spanning the Generations… Continuing the Mission!”

W. Dean Sellers, 1976 graduate of Dayton Christian, has recently been named the DCSS Alumni Relations Coordinator. Dean has an extensive background in business and project management. He resides in Lebanon, Ohio, with his wife Amy and their three children. Contact Dean at (937) 291-7220 or at dsellers@daytonchristian.com.
A Challenge from the Director of Advancement

DCSS is committed, through its Annual Fund, to give students an exceptional, affordable education and to provide the necessary resources to enhance excellence in our classrooms.

Changing Lives… One Gift at a Time
Please partner with us as we continue “Educating for Eternity.” Bless our students, teachers, and families—and be blessed in return. Will you please consider donating to the Annual Fund today?

Changing Lives – Our Students
Close to 20% of our students (approximately 130 children) are recipients of tuition assistance. Due to financial difficulties, 68 children could not attend this year. Our goal continues to be partnering with Christian families and providing necessary financial assistance where needed. Your gift toward our Tuition Assistance goal of $260,000 will help us offset a portion of tuition costs for families with financial needs.

Changing Lives – Our Teachers
Our godly, dedicated, and qualified teachers are the backbone of our school. They are passionate mentors who daily model Christ for their students and integrate Biblical principles into their classroom. Your gift toward the $150,000 Stipends program supports particular faculty and staff financial needs.

Changing Lives – Our Facilities
Our families entrust us with their children and deserve outstanding facilities. Our Annual Fund goal this year for some unexpected but highly needed Facility Improvements is $175,000. Funds at our Dayton campus will be used to replace our current boilers with 95% efficient units and to repair the parking lot. At the Xenia campus, with the sale of the Schindler Banquet Center to AIA, your gifts will be used to remodel the basement of the auditorium to create a cafeteria and to upgrade the Lincoln building restrooms. All of these improvements are necessary and prudent.

Eddy Zakes serves as the Director of Advancement for the Dayton Christian School System. Prior to his current position, Eddy served in the Legacy Ministries Foundation as a gift officer, as well as in the Legacy Ministries International Finance Office. Eddy holds a B.S. in International Business from Bob Jones University.

Historical Highlights from Our President Emeritus

“Look…be astonished! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe, if you were told.” Habakkuk 1:5

In 1963 when God set on course a small group of believers to begin a Christian School in Dayton, little did we know the miraculous journey that He had in store for us. Starting with a meager student body of fourteen children in the lower level of a church, we grew to a system impacting thousands of young lives for eternity.

As we reflect on our beginnings and history, our hearts are overwhelmed with praise to God for…

• a student body that grew to be one of the largest Christian school systems in America.
• a reputation as an institution that is Christ centered and Biblically based.
• a faculty who love our Lord and see their teaching as a calling from Him.
• the provision of financial aid for families with needs.
• accreditation by the state of Ohio, ACSI, and AdvancedED.
• nearly 5,000 graduates, working and serving Christ faithfully all over the world.
• giving us many outlets, including 4 published books translated into 4 different languages, to share with other Christian schools what God has taught us.
• enabling us to provide training for students with special needs.
• miraculously providing world-class educational facilities.
• faithfully answering the prayers of His people (faculty, staff, students, and their families) time and time again for financial, facility, and family needs.
• establishing DCSS as a totally debt and financially free school system.
• showing Himself resoundingly to be the Leader and Purpose of this ministry.

This ministry has always been and will continue to be God’s work. We stand in awe of what He’s done and are humbled to be a part of it. I am very excited about the bright and promising future of the ministry and, in particular, the leadership of Bob Elliott and his Senior Team.

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus…” Ephesians 3:20

On Course to Advance…

On Course to Remember…

Claude “Bud” Schindler

Annual Fund 2011-2012
Goal: $585,000

| Facilities Improvements | $175,000 |
| Stipends | $150,000 |
| Tuition Assistance | $260,000 |

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Claude “Bud” Schindler
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Giving Opportunities

Donate online to DCSS by visiting any of our websites and clicking on “Giving.”

Annual Fund 2011-2012
Goal: $585,000

$57,338 Raised

Use one of our Kroger cards when you shop there, and 4% of your spending will be given to DCSS. Call to get your free card today!