

Weekly Eagle News – Head of Schools

My Favorite Parents:

Our progress towards achieving the \$300,000 challenge match and making possible a new middle school gym has been nothing short of amazing. I am grateful to God for this.

It has led to some questions that I thought might be helpful to address:

1. “I already pay tuition, why in the world should I give to the school?”
 - A. There are a few reasons why giving is important and necessary. First, tuition only covers our operating expenses. We raise money for items outside of our operating expenses, typically just tuition assistance (financial aid) and capital purchases. Building out a new middle school gym is an example of a capital expense. It is an investment in the institution, the rewards of which will be enjoyed for generations of students into the future. There are schools that might use debt financing for such purchases or investments, but our goal at Redlands Christian is to avoid debt. We seek to be wise stewards of limited resources and avoid the extra costs and risk associated with debt expenses.

Second, like anything that is important, it is necessary to invest in the future of our school. Now more than ever our world needs Redlands Christian Schools. Making sense of this world begins from a Christian worldview – an understanding of why we as human beings have value and creative capacity, why evil exists and why worldviews that answer these basic questions differently lead to different outcomes. A Christian worldview helps make sense of middle east conflict, “gender” confusion, growing levels of childhood anxiety and so much more of the brokenness of this world. This ability to make sense of the world and do so from within the context of an education that is objectively excellent is part of what makes this school worthy of your investment. God is at work in children’s hearts and minds through what happens at Redlands Christian and we have the opportunity to help continue that into the future.

Third, each capital project is simply a type of investment prospectus. Who benefits and does it then make sense to invest? When I reflect on this middle school gym project, I begin by recognizing that more than 65% of our middle school students participate in athletics. I recognize that the quality of the current facility that they use is lacking. I also see that the existing space would make a great fine arts/chapel facility for the future – a location in which 100% of our students would be impacted. I recognize that a new middle school gym is a form of marketing to those families from visiting Christian schools. I recognize that the lifetime of such a project is decades into the future and I realize that thousands of young people will benefit from this investment made today.

2. “Well, the school seems to have plenty of ‘rich’ people who give, why in the world would you need my small gift?”
 - A. Ultimately philanthropy is not about giving a lot but rather contributing commensurate with your means for the joy of giving, the joy of being part of a project that gets done and the sense of being part of a team that accomplished a goal. When we developed a table of gifts to reach our campaign goal, it had gift levels from \$1,000 to \$50,000 for the small number of friends of the school that would be able to give at those levels. It left an additional \$10,000 in giving that would come from the many small gifts that add up to help put us over the top. To be honest, that is where most of us come in. When I answer the question of whether giving is necessary and important, it makes me realize that it is important whether I am giving \$50, \$500 or \$50,000.

I hope this has helped answer some questions you may have had. For more information on the middle school gym project, you can [follow this link](#).

Have a great week.

Brian