



# CHAMPION CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*A program of the Christian Family & Children's Center*

North Campus (724)-593-9200 FAX 724-593-9210

South Campus (724)-455-2122 FAX 724-455-6651

<http://www.champion.org/ccs> email: [info@champion.org](mailto:info@champion.org)

June 20, 2020

## **Dear Champion Christian Parents (and Students):**

Whether you are a continuing, past, or new family to CCS, we pray that you and your families are enjoying your summer vacation! The staff and faculty spend a great deal of time and energy, at both the end of the school year and before school begins, planning ahead for the upcoming school year. Regardless of which program your child is in, this letter will contain very important information for you. We will also have it posted on the website for your reference. No matter where you are in the education spectrum, this year has been a very unpredictable one with the COVID-19 crisis. We are looking to learn from the experience and move forward with our planning for the fall. If you are with us for next year, we would like to have you engage in the process with us as we plan. Please look for the various town halls, surveys, and other opportunities for you to share your perspective or receive communication.

## **Respond letting us know you have received this email:**

This year, like last, we are tracking your receipt of this email. Please send an email with your name to [info@champion.org](mailto:info@champion.org) saying that you received the summer letter. If we do not hear from you, our staff will call to make sure that you have received it. Please help us by just letting us know right away that you have read it! Thanks for helping us that way.

## **We are very thankful for each of you:**

We appreciate the investment that you have made in sending your child(ren) to Champion. We do know that it requires a lot of commitment from your family to make this happen. Likewise, the same is true of the staff and the Center as a whole. After our year end debriefing sessions, our staff has a good deal of hope. Even with the uncertainties of COVID-19 and the future, God has called all of us together. We are committed to expanding high quality Christian education in our communities, and are excited about the number of new families who are looking at Champion for the education of their children. In these difficult times of cultural changes around us, we enter this next year with renewed mission and focus on serving you and our community well. Last year's enrollment increased about 20%. Although it is a little early, we see potential for growth in the school program next year even with the current uncertainties.

As some of you know, the tax credit programs (EITC and OSTC) have helped us tremendously in the past and **the Board has taken that opportunity to provide more financial aid** to those who need it this year. **All of these additions will put money in the pockets of families that need it to help make sure their children can attend trips, play sports, and do other things that require financial support.** As noted earlier, families can ask for additional help if they need it because of the difficulties of the shutdown this past spring. Requests should be addressed to Val in the financial aid office.

Just a reminder that the financial-aid application is now on the Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) website. You will first need to create your STS account before June 30<sup>th</sup> before proceeding to the financial-aid application. Follow the iChampion Financial Aid instructions to complete this process. The Award letter

and Service agreement will be uploaded to iChampion for your signature once the STS application process is complete and we receive your eligibility. The handbook signoffs are all on iChampion (<http://www.champion.org/iChampion>). New student profiles for grades 5-12 need completed as well. Please note that returning student profiles will be submitted in student forms this year. We encourage you to start now to work your way through this. Each student will receive some feedback and goals from the faculty team. These are goals for the student to work on towards helping to build a positive Godly culture here at CCS. Returning students will be required to respond to those goals, and you, as a parent, are required to attest to their work. Profiles for new students and those entering fifth grade are found in the enrollment sections.

Many of you have asked about the status of the gym complex. When COVID-19 hit, the Foundation that had committed to supporting the project noted they would have to revisit this after the crisis was over. We have not learned how that support will flesh out yet, but at this point we are still very actively planning for the future and we will see how God moves us forward over the summer.

Please take a few moments to read the following information. Remember that one of the best ways to get updated information is on the websites at <http://www.champion.org>, <http://www.champion.org/ccs>, and <http://www.champion.org/preschool>. Also, if you do need to contact us, North Campus is normally open from 9 am - 4 pm Monday through Friday during the summer months.

Have a blessed summer!



Dr. D. Merle Skinner, LPC, Executive Director

## **NEW FAMILIES TO CCS**

We are very excited that you have chosen to partner with us in the education of your child. If you need assistance in finding out what is expected of you, feel free to call your child's teacher or any support staff member at the school. There are several things that are important for you to do now if you haven't already. Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) accounts must be created online for financial aid and for billing and payments. In addition, material fees are due at the end of July and will be billed to your STS account.

Teachers will be contacting all new families to make an appointment to complete a developmental history after enrollment has been established. This information is helpful for students of all ages and also provides families an opportunity to become better acquainted with CCS and our staff.

In the summer as a part of the enrollment and reenrollment process, we ask parents to work through some tasks and paperwork on iChampion. If you need help with iChampion, computers are available to you during our summer hours at North Campus and our support staff can walk you through the process. We will continue to share more information about these tasks throughout the summer. Keep in mind that parents at CCS use iChampion to view and track student assignments and grades. Teachers will go over that process with new families during orientation.

### **Returning Families regarding STS balances:**

Please be aware that we will be moving all balances and credits from this past year to the new 2020-2021 school year. All balances need to be paid in full before the first day of school in the fall. Material fees will be billed in July and due August 3. Tuition is due Friday, August 21 before the first day of school on August 24. Please contact Mrs. Varesio at 724-593-9200 ext. 102 ([val\\_varesio@champion.org](mailto:val_varesio@champion.org)) with any questions.

### **ADDITIONAL ONLINE INFORMATION, CLASSROOM RESOURCES, AND CALENDAR**

Although COVID-19 created huge stresses for teachers, students, and families, there have been multiple ways that God has allowed us to grow and learn during this time. We are excited with the recent added advances in the blended learning format. Over the last seven years with a focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, we have learned many things and, this year, we added new resources to take us even further.

Let us help you to stay in the loop. If you are still having trouble reading your email or getting things off of the web, please let us know how we can help. It is important that you make sure that our domain, [champion.org](http://champion.org), is not blocked by your email server or your virus protection program.

Just a reminder: The Center's online calendar will keep you up to date with the most current activities and school schedules. It has been updated with tentative dates through the end of the next school year. This is located at <http://www.champion.org/calendar> and will give you some ideas about what dates to save. Please remember to regularly look at that calendar for the most current information and don't forget to check the Center (green) calendar, the school (burgundy) calendar, the athletics (blue) calendar and the chapel (lavender) calendar. You will have to select these calendars on the left side of the page under 'shared calendars' to see the details. Activities do change sometimes due to reasons beyond our control. Please use this and regular email communications like Principals' and Administrators' Notes to plan more effectively. If you would like to keep your settings on the calendar (not have to check the red school calendar each time you open the calendar) we can give you your own login to use. Just email [support@champion.org](mailto:support@champion.org) and we will set you up. This will also give you a [champion.org](http://champion.org) email account if you would like one.

### **Report Cards:**

All report cards are/will be published on iChampion in the student's homeroom section. Students in grades 5-12 can log in and access their report cards through the end of July. Elementary parents will access the report cards for the younger students. Please contact Mrs. Lane or your child's teacher if you have any questions, or if you would like to schedule an appointment.

### **Achievement Test Scores:**

While we have recently adjusted our achievement testing to a fall schedule, and prefer that approach, we are currently evaluating how to proceed because of the disruption to classes that we have had this spring.

### **Returning Student Profiles:**

Returning students going into grades 6-12 will be able to access their completed student profiles from the 2019-2020 year in iChampion during the month of June. Students will need to reflect on those old profiles and create a new response that describes how they have grown spiritually over the year. These reflections will need to be uploaded on iChampion by August 15<sup>th</sup>. During the first month of school, each student will be appointed a faculty advisor and with the advisor's help, the student will edit the profile and establish new or amended goals for the new school year. Returning students entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade will need to complete a new student profile as this is the first year that they will go through this process.

### **New Student Profiles:**

New students in grades 5-11 should complete their profiles during the enrollment process.

## **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

### **Summer Preschool and Early Education Extended Care Services:**

We're so excited to once again offer both summer preschool and our Early Education Extended Care Services (EECS) summer program for children, **infants and up!** This summer, these services are available at our North Campus in Donegal Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Enrolled students will be served free lunch and a morning snack as part of the summer hot lunch program. Listed below is a schedule of what we will be doing this year! If you are interested in care for infants through school age children, please contact Mrs. Mandy Reed at [mandy\\_reed@champion.org](mailto:mandy_reed@champion.org) or Lin Podolinsky at [lin\\_podolinsky@champion.org](mailto:lin_podolinsky@champion.org) as soon as possible so that we may plan accordingly to best meet your needs and those of the Center. Thank you!

June 15-19 Water week

June 22-26 Red, White and Blue (please bring a white tee shirt for us to tie dye)

June 29-July 2 Bugs/Insects (Please note that the Center is closed on July 3)

July 13-17 Ocean week

July 20-24 Water week

July 27-31 Farm week

Aug. 3-7 S.T.E.A.M.

Aug. 10-14 Jungle/safari

You can find additional information on the summer preschool program on the web at: <http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/summer/summerpreschool/index.htm>

We will also be continuing before and after school extended care services in the 2020-2021 school year for children, infants through elementary school. To find out more information about the extended care program, check out the web at:

[www.champion.org/childcare](http://www.champion.org/childcare)

### **Free Summer Lunch Program:**

Our summer food service program is in full swing at Champion Christian School's North Campus, 1076 King's Way, Donegal. Ms. Melissa Wolfgang, high school teacher during the school year but an experienced chef most summers, is again serving this year.

FREE Summer lunches will be available every weekday June 8<sup>th</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to

1 p.m. for any child through the age of eighteen regardless of income level, school district in which they live, or where they go to school. Adults may purchase a lunch for \$3.60. Children may want to participate in some other activities while they are here. Children are also welcome to use the playground with adult supervision.

### **CDL Bus and Regular Van Daily Driver Training:**

We need additional regular route drivers (van or bus) for CCS daily runs and also special trip drivers. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities or know of someone that might be a great candidate for these roles, please contact Dr. Skinner or Mrs. Podolinsky ASAP. Some of our daily runs just require a regular driver's license for driving.

### **Summer Tutoring:**

CCS summer tutoring is available for students. We have a grant available to help with the cost for CCS students this year. Tutoring for other students is also available at the rate of \$15 for a thirty-minute session or \$20 for forty-five minutes. If you are interested in enrolling your child in tutoring this summer, please contact Mrs. Lane for more information. Tutoring payments are due each week for students not enrolled at CCS.

<http://www.champion.org/summeractivities/tutoring>

### **Summer Music Lessons:**

CCS summer beginning and intermediate piano and voice lessons are available for students (both CCS and other students) and adults at the rate of \$12.50 for a twenty-five minute lesson each week. Piano and voice lesson books will be provided by the school with a small fee added to the cost of the first lesson and future lessons as lesson books are completed. If you are interested in signing up your child for lessons this summer, please contact Ms. Jen Pizer for more information at [jen\\_pizer@champion.org](mailto:jen_pizer@champion.org). The summer lesson schedule is just about full so be sure to sign up as soon as possible! Lesson payments are due each week at the time of the lesson or can be billed monthly on your STS account. For further information and sign-up sheet, please visit:

<http://www.champion.org/summeractivities/music%20lessons/summermusiclessonform.pdf>

### **Heartsaver First Aid, AED & CPR:**

Do you need First Aid or CPR classes? We will be having a scheduled class in the fall but are open to offering a class this summer, if there is enough interest. The classes are taught by Ms. Wolfgang through the American Heart Association. Cost is \$60. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

### **Summer New and Old Building Notes:**

Have you noticed the great work that has happened already this summer at our North Campus? We are thankful to the Lord for all of the work that has been done to our facilities over the last couple of years. We still have several projects that we want to focus on this summer. Some of those are: the track development at Harr Field, general landscaping, and some general work done with our backhoe and dozer. Please let Dr. Skinner, one of the trustees, or PAC members know as soon as possible if you would like to help. If you are interested in being a trustee or would like to help with certain projects, please check out the website at

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/orientation/needslist.pdf> and let Dr. Skinner know!

### **Community Coach Bus Trips:**

At this time, all upcoming trips have been postponed. As things in the country begin to open back up, we hope to be able to get some great trips planned for our community (Sight & Sound Theatre, Pirate games, the Ark Encounter & Creation Museum, Museum of the Bible, and more!) These trips really are a great opportunity to be involved with the Center and can be a wonderful time of fellowship with friends and family, so be sure to keep an eye on your email for some fun opportunities as we are able to get some trips scheduled!

### **Golf Benefit:**

This year's golf benefit will be on Saturday morning, August 8 at the Club at Middlecreek. Download the [registration form](#) to sign up! If you have any questions, please call Barb Skinner at 724-455-2122 ext. 104. We are looking for teams, individual players, and sponsors who might be interested!

### **Summer Camp:**

We have some awesome hands-on learning happening this summer with *rocket camp*. Classes are filling up quickly, so please sign up soon.

Explore <http://www.champion.org/summeractivities> to find out more about this year's summer camp at Champion Christian School.

### **EITC (Business Tax Credits):**

Please visit our website at <http://www.champion.org/development/eitc> to download a brochure (or pick some up at either campus) about the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) to pass on to any business owners you know. If the business pays PA income tax, they can redirect those funds to help provide scholarships here at Champion Christian School. If you are a new business, July 1st is the target deadline for all new businesses to apply for the credits, so now is the time to be thinking about this!

You can participate in this program as an individual! Instead of your PA tax dollars going to Harrisburg, you can donate that to help fund financial aid for Champion Christian School students and get over a 90% tax credit back. There is a \$1000 minimum. Contact Barb ([barb\\_skinner@champion.org](mailto:barb_skinner@champion.org)) if you want more information.

## **PREPARING FOR SCHOOL IN THE FALL**

### **Elementary Summer Reader Program:**

It is almost time for Summer Readers to begin. Summer Readers is a great way for students to continue to work on their learning as they are enjoying the summer! Students who complete their reading are invited to spend the day at Mountain Pines Campground on September 4th. Parents are also invited. Each grade has different requirements for summer reading. This program is optional for Elementary students. Those entering fifth grade are also included and invited to the picnic and have a great time helping and playing with the younger students. If your child does not participate in Summer Readers, they will stay at school and have a normal day while the other students attend the picnic. There will be a minimal bus fee for each student who attends, which will be billed to your STS account.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/elementary/summerreaders>

## **Middle School and High School Readers are Needed:**

We also encourage the older students to read over the summer. We are looking for students to help screen new books in our library and would also like to expand student selections and participation in our library program. If your middle school or high school student is interested in this opportunity, please contact us.

## **Discovery Program:**

This program is designed for students with learning difficulties. More information about this program can be found on the school web site. Contact Mrs. Lane at ext. 111 or via email at [belinda\\_lane@champion.org](mailto:belinda_lane@champion.org) for additional information. View more information at <http://www.champion.org/nild>. There is some funding available for these students to receive tutoring over the summer. Please contact Mrs. Lane if you are interested in this program.

## **Fall Program Meeting:**

Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> is our Fall Parent Meeting for all programs at Champion Christian School held at the North Campus in Donegal at 6:30 p.m. It is a great time to get to know each other and find out more about what is going on. **There is also a required meeting for all those that received financial aid at 7:45 p.m. that night.**

## **Financial Aid/ Work Program:**

**EXTRA FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE NOW!** Please get it done early this year to take advantage of this amazing opportunity. Get your tax documents together and complete your STS application today. Early applications mean early approvals. Applications are **DUE JULY 15<sup>th</sup>**.

The financial aid application is now available for 2020-2021 on Simple Tuition Solutions (STS) website. New families will need to create an STS account **before June 30<sup>th</sup>** before proceeding to the financial-aid application. Follow the iChampion Financial Aid instructions to complete this process. Current families can proceed straight to the 2020-2021 financial-aid application on STS. The Award letter and Service agreement will be uploaded to iChampion for your signature once the STS application process is complete and we receive your eligibility. Early applications help provide processing time to complete the financial aid process.

If you are interested in working at the school to help with your tuition, you may contact Mrs. Varesio at the North Campus school office, 724-593-9200 x102. It is very important to us that you are able to afford a Christian education. We need landscapers, maintenance workers, and cleaners!

If you receive financial aid, you are required to participate in two fundraisers during the school year, attend the required parent and financial-aid meeting, and attend one workday for a minimum of four hours. You can donate \$50 in place of one fundraiser instead of participating. If you do not fulfill your financial-aid requirements, part of your financial-aid package will be reduced. This is part of the financial service agreement.

## **Bussing Contracts:**

Because of summer schedules, we will not know anything about bussing until two weeks before school starts at the earliest. You will be contacted by your child's driver.

## **2020-2021 Orientation:**

Orientation for the new school year will be at both campuses on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Please plan accordingly. This is a very important time as much information regarding the new school year will be provided. Check out the link below for more information.

[2020-2021 Champion Christian School Orientation](#)

## **Handbooks:**

All parents and students are to review the handbooks and will sign a statement that they have read and agree to the policies before the beginning of school by uploading them to iChampion.

The handbook signoffs are all on iChampion (<http://www.champion.org/iChampion>). The password is E@gle\$

## **Social Media and Communication:**

Social media is a great way to share the great things that are happening at the Center. We encourage you to connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Please like our pages, and share regularly information about what we are doing. This really helps make the footprint of the Center and CCS much better. However, it is essential that CCS families resist the current trend to use social media as a tool to vent and voice personal opinion. As a part of the family commitment, you are agreeing to talk directly with teachers and the administration about concerns. Please remember that talking to other parents about concerns before you have worked with staff or posting negative comments on Facebook does not help to solve the problem and is hurtful for all involved.

## **Health Forms:**

All health forms can be accessed at <http://www.champion.org/ccs/admissions>.

Click on the Health & Immunization link in the upper right-hand corner of the page and then select the appropriate link from the drop-down menu. Make sure to view the PA State Immunization Requirements for all students at:

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/admissions/immunizations.pdf>

## **First Day of School 2020-2021:**

Our first day of school for the upcoming school year is Monday, August 24 for both K-12 and MWF Preschool Classes. T-TH Preschool Classes will begin on Tuesday, August 25. Please contact Mrs. Lin Podolinsky to arrange fall extended care scheduling.

## **Parent – Teacher Communication:**

Remember that communication regarding school-related information or issues needs to happen through either the faculty or staff member's email account, your iChampion messaging, or Center phone. Center policy keeps our faculty and staff from responding to communication through Facebook, texting, and/or any type of social media messaging.

## **Dress Code Reminder:**

Please take a moment to look over the dress code stated in the handbooks.

## **HS and MS Retreats:**

The HS and MS retreats are important events in the life of the student bodies at the Center.



Because of the shutdown and COVID-19 crisis, we are waiting to develop those plans until we see how the fall will be shaping up for us. You can find out more about what we normally do at retreats by checking the links out below. Please look for information later in the summer. These events are set up at the beginning of the school year as a kick-off event and play an essential part in setting up spiritual unity and goals for the school. All students attend the retreat. Please plan ahead for these dates.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/middleschool/retreat>

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/activities/highschool/retreat>

### **2020-2021 Service Hours:**

Students may earn service hours over the summer. Please remember that MS and HS students are required to earn a certain number of hours per year. Contact one of the staff if your student would like to earn some summer service hours at the school. Students need to have service hour forms completed and signed to receive credit.

## **ADDITIONAL PRESCHOOL INFORMATION**

Although last year was difficult in multiple ways, we also had a fantastic year in preschool! And, we are so excited for the upcoming school year when we'll welcome many new and returning families as well. Please make sure you read each of the notes in the above sections. Also, the information applies to all preschool families, regardless if you are involved in our Donegal, Indian Head, or Ligonier campuses.

This information also relates to you if you are coming to Preschool or moving on to Kindergarten. As you can imagine, lots of things have been happening around here. For the preschool homepage, please visit us at <http://www.champion.org/preschool>. You'll find very useful information there, as well. Ms. Jen Pizer, Mrs. Mandy Reed, and Mrs. Sharon Pasqualette are all working over the summer and will be in the classrooms weekly. So, if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to come and visit us, that will be great! We trust that God will bless your summer!

Please note: If you are interested in enrolling your child for more than one preschool class, you do have the opportunity to do so dependent on enrollment. All you must do is indicate on your application by choosing all classes you would like your child to attend. If your child is a returning preschooler and you would like multiple classes, please contact Ms. Jen Pizer for more information and that enrollment process.

### **Next Year's Preschool Class Preferences:**

Returning preschool families, your preschool application was automatically rolled over into next year's preschool program. You do not need to complete a new preschool application. The only necessary thing you need to complete is to inform Ms. Jen Pizer of any changes in class preferences. Returning families are given first choice of classes, so it's important to be timely. New families are given choices of preschool when they enroll. PLEASE NOTE: If you have preferences regarding your child's preschool teacher, those requests and decisions will be directed to and decided by Mrs. Belinda Lane and Dr. Skinner.

### **Preschool iChampion Accounts and Usage:**

Throughout the year, you will be using iChampion to access preschool class resources, field trip

information, and uploading permission forms. Please ask for assistance if you need help. It is important to be able to use iChampion in order to have a fantastic year at Champion. We also now have a virtual preschool classroom and a kindergarten readiness class on iChampion that we will continue to utilize.

### **Preschool iChampion Handbook Sign-off:**

Important note! As you are completing the required portions of iChampion for this upcoming school year, please be sure to complete the handbook sign off in the Parents Classes. This verifies that you have read and understand all policies and procedures of the Center and Champion Christian School.

### **Preschool Developmental Appointments:**

Just as a reminder, if your child has attended Champion Christian Preschool this past school year, you do NOT need to complete a developmental appointment with your child's teacher. If you are a new family to the Preschool program or your child is new to the Preschool program, once your application and registration fee are taken care of, your child's teacher will be in touch with you to schedule a developmental appointment that will be completed this summer prior to the beginning of school.

### **Preschool Orientation:**

Please see the orientation information above. Preschool participates in the whole-school orientation. For more information, click below.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/orientation/>

### **Preschool Supply List:**

For the upcoming school year, the preschool students will need to bring several items with them to school. You can drop off the classroom supplies during the Open House Orientation or during the first week of school. Please click below for specific supplies.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/orientation/preschool/supplylist.htm>

### **Preschool Class Schedule:**

The class schedule for the upcoming school year is available in the handbooks and the website. Please use it to help your child prepare for his or her preschool days. It is intended to help parents to be able to know what we are doing and to interact with your child about their days in preschool. These schedules are general guides, but are specifically geared, as needed, within each class. Click below for general morning and afternoon class schedules.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/orientation/preschool/Morning%20Preschool%20Schedule.pdf>

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/orientation/preschool/Afternoon%20Preschool%20Schedule.pdf>

### **Fall Program Meeting:**

See the above notes in the summer letter about the Fall Parent Meeting and the required financial-aid meeting which is scheduled for October 22, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at our North Campus in Donegal. Click the link below for more specific information.

<http://www.champion.org/ccs/orientation/preschool/Preschool%20Parent%20Meeting.htm>