



BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Thank you for your interest in Bellingham Christian School. This packet is designed to answer some of the questions you may have. It is our prayer that God will guide you as you seek His will for the education of your children.

Applications for the upcoming school year are accepted beginning February 1. Space in some grades is limited so it is advisable to turn the applications in as soon as possible. Once applications are received, parents will be contacted to set up a time for an interview. Applications are considered on a first come, first served basis.

Education affects a child's thinking patterns and understanding throughout all of life. It is essential, therefore, that children be taught about the world from a viewpoint that honors the Creator and that they learn to reason Biblically in all areas of the curriculum and life. At Bellingham Christian School, we seek to do this in an environment that affirms the individuality of students and calls them to Christlikeness. We share with Christians everywhere the desire to honor our Lord and Savior in all that we do and say, in order that our students will have the opportunity to personally experience the fullness of Christ's love and grace.

As you prayerfully consider your child's education and the information we have provided here, please feel free to contact us with any questions you have.

In Christ's Service,

Bob Sampson
Administrator



OUR PURPOSE & HISTORY

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Our purpose is to provide high quality academic instruction from a Biblical perspective to the local, evangelical Christian community so each student may be prepared to take his place in the home, church, state and profession in a manner that glorifies God.

To achieve this purpose, a group of parents founded Bellingham Christian School in 1958. Under the Lord's blessing and grace, the school has developed unique strengths which enable it to meet its purpose. Some of our strengths:

- Subjects taught from a Biblical view
- Outstanding certificated staff who love the Lord, teaching, and children
- Active parental involvement in the classrooms and school
- Chapel program for students in grades one through eight
- Dedicated, professional faculty
- Discipline based upon Scriptural guidelines
- Phonics intensive reading program
- Classes limited in size to *25 students
- Opportunity for older students to participate in after-school athletics
- Large classrooms and a full-size gymnasium
- Membership in the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Emphasis on educational basics

Since the school's founding, God has blessed it with the support of parents from a broad spectrum of evangelical backgrounds; approximately forty churches are represented by children who attend the school. Under the guidance of a parent-elected Board of Directors, the school provides education for students beginning in Pre-Kindergarten and extending through eighth grade.

In 1963, the school moved to its current ten-acre campus on Sunset Drive. Through the generous donation of money and labor, parents constructed a five classroom building. Over the years, the main building has been expanded to include ten classrooms, a library, and office space. In addition, a spacious gymnasium has been built and the playground has been expanded to include a large playfield. Additionally, we have developed a four-acre section of our campus for use as a nature study area, and have long-range plans to add another wing to the building.

*Our goal is to keep class sizes at 25. However, from time to time, for various reasons, the principal and board may decide to lift this enrollment lid to a maximum of 27 for individual classes.



STATEMENT OF BELIEF

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The basis of the Bellingham Christian School Association is the Word of God. In the light of this Word we stand committed in our educational program to the following truths and regulations and require the same from all parents enrolling their children in the school:

The Bible is the Word of God, divinely inspired as originally given, and is the supreme authority in life and its preparation.

God is triune - one eternal God existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Man is created in His image. Creation and providence reveal the nature of God.

Christ is God manifested in the flesh, born of a virgin; He lived a sinless life, suffered and died on our behalf; and He arose bodily from the grave, ascended, and is coming again in power and glory.

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely fundamental to Christian life and should be basic for all preparation in life. By God's grace only and through faith alone are we and our children saved from sin and its evil consequences.

Parents are responsible for the education of their children. To bring them up in the Lord, they, through the agency of a board, employ teachers who give evidence of a born-again life and who manifest ability to educate children morally and intellectually in the light of God's Word.

The students (those taught), being images of God, must be subject to His sovereign rule in their lives. Creation and providence (that which is taught), being God-revealing, must be taught as such. Such teaching makes for God-consciousness without which no Christian teaching is possible.

Doctrines that divide the denominations represented in the student body are not to be discussed in school. A student raising a question concerning such a doctrine is to be referred to the parents or pastor of the student.



TEN QUESTIONS

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

- 1. Can I be involved in the school and in my child's classroom?**
Yes and yes! Since Bellingham Christian School is a parent-owned school, we have a tremendous appreciation for parents and we welcome their involvement in our school, as long as it does not interfere with an effective classroom environment. Parents should ask the teacher how they can be involved in individual classrooms. Parents are also encouraged to be active in Parent Teacher Fellowship.
- 2. How do your students perform academically?**
Our standardized test scores given to our 1st through 8th grade students and the success of our students when they enter high school, indicate that our students are well prepared academically. (Our classes consistently score well above average - 70th and 80th percentile - on the Stanford Achievement Test.) Students are taught the subject matter and the discipline of daily work, which is vital for success in the classroom and in life.
- 3. What is a phonics intensive reading program and why is it important?**
When students study phonics, they are studying the rules for the different sounds that individual letters and groups of letters make in words. Only when they understand the principles of phonics will they be able to associate written language with spoken language and be effective readers. An effective reader will be more likely to nurture a love for reading than an ineffective reader.
- 4. What are the school hours?**
School begins at 9:00 AM (6th through 8th grade begin at 8:45 AM) each morning and is dismissed at 3:15 PM each afternoon. Half day dismissals are at noon. Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten hours are 9:00 AM to noon.
- 5. Are there buses for students to ride to school?**
Parents must arrange for rides for their children to and from school. Most parents are able to arrange for carpools.
- 6. Does the school serve hot lunches?**
Students must bring lunches and snacks from home each day. However, once a week pizza can be purchased. Milk is available each day for students to buy.
- 7. Is there financial aid available to help pay for tuition?**
The tuition charged by the school reflects the yearly operating costs of the school. Families with two or more children receive discounts, and there is limited assistance through our Tuition Assistance Program. Please call the school for further details.
- 8. How is the school governed?**
Parents and former parents may be members of the Bellingham Christian School Association. The Association elects members to a Board of Directors who oversee the operation of the school.
- 9. Is the school associated with any church or denomination?**
No. There are approximately forty evangelical churches represented in our school family.
- 10. What can I do to find out more information?**
We welcome visitors! To arrange a visit of the school and classes or to meet with the teachers or the principal, please call the school.

DRESS CODE

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Our goal at Bellingham Christian School is to reflect to our community godly attitudes and standards in every area, including our apparel. Parents should shop for school clothing with these questions in mind:

- Is it neat and tidy in appearance?
- Is it appropriate for the activities that take place during a normal school day?
- Is it modest?

Enforcement of the dress code is primarily the responsibility of parents of each child. Students in violation of dress code will be reminded of the code and asked to dress accordingly. Students who continue to violate the dress code or who blatantly violate the code will only be admitted to class when appropriate clothing is brought to the school.

Boys

Allowed: Slacks, jeans, walking shorts (no shorter than a seven-inch inseam).

Not Allowed: Clothing that is not clean, or has holes in it, or in disrepair; tight shorts or pants; sweats; (however sweat and fleece outfits that are decorated are allowed for students in grades four and under) sleeveless shirts; hats or hoods in class; objectionable logos.

Girls

Allowed: Jeans, slacks, skirts, jumpers, dresses, walking shorts (no shorter than a seven-inch inseam).

Note: Girls must wear shorts under dresses when playing on the playground. Shorts should not show below the hem.

Not Allowed: Mini skirts or dresses; tight shorts or pants; clothing that is torn, has holes in it or is in disrepair; sweats (girls can wear sweat and fleece outfits if they are in grades four or under); objectionable logos; hats or hoods in class.



PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool

Bellingham Christian School offers Preschool programs for three and four year olds. Each plays a unique role in introducing children to the school environment and preparing them for academic success. Students who are 3 years old by September 1st may enroll in 2-day Preschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Four year olds may enroll in the 3-day Pre-Kindergarten on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Preschool programs are from 9:00 until 12:00. A five-day afternoon program may be offered based on enough interest.

Our Pre-Kindergarten began in the 1996-1997 school year. Students are given the opportunity to satisfy their curiosity as they explore many topics and, at the same time, learn to interact with classmates and teachers in a school setting.

Kindergarten

BCS offers all day and half-day Kindergarten programs.

Our Kindergarten classes are more academic than the Pre-Kindergarten; most students learn to read by the end of the school year. Kindergarten students are introduced to phonics and writing in a caring, patient environment.

Both programs build upon the foundation for education that begins at home and is strengthened in the church. Here we offer a Christ-centered, loving environment where children begin their formal education.



CHRISTIAN VS. SECULAR

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

We work to develop a program that is distinctively Christian.

<u>Christian View of Education</u>	<u>Secular View of Education</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal 2. God is the source and answer 3. Expansionary 4. Education by definition—liberty oriented: individual action, expression, inspiration, consecration, instruction 5. Biblical 6. Reflective—Internally oriented 7. Conscience is causative, cause and effect is internal to external 8. Teaches exact knowledge of God in all subjects 9. Develops "critical faculties": discernment, judgment, evaluative skills 10. Character growth brings a change in behavior 11. Uses aids and visuals to verify, amplify, clarify exact knowledge 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External 2. Man is the source and answer 3. Evolutionary 4. Political by definition—control-oriented: group action, stimulus/response, motivation, indoctrination for state's purposes 5. Psychological, behavioral, Pavlovian 6. Non-reflective—environment oriented 7. Environment is causative, student responsive to environmental stimulus 8. No standard exists in which to measure truth 9. Imposes "socially approved" opinions 10. Manipulates the environment to change the behavior 11. Uses visuals to provoke and stimulate; motivates learning rather than inspires learning
<u>Potential Fruit</u>	<u>Potential Fruit</u>
Liberty Independence Wholeness Individuality Productive purposefulness Dominion Discipline Fulfillment/happiness	Slavery Dependence Fragmentation Uniformity Socialism or worse Submission (indiscriminate) Rebellion Restless/vacuum

Chart adapted from one completed by Michael R. Myers of Lancaster Pennsylvania.



APPLICATION FORM

Received _____
Interview _____

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FAMILY INFORMATION

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Pre-K Preference: 2 Day ____ 3 Day ____ **K Preference:** 1/2 day ____ All Day ____

Student one _____

Grade Entering _____ Birthdate _____ Gender _____

School last attended _____

Student two _____

Grade Entering _____ Birthdate _____ Gender _____

School last attended _____

Student three _____

Grade Entering _____ Birthdate _____ Gender _____

School last attended _____

Child(ren) reside with:

Both Parents Mother Father Guardian

Are there specific custody circumstances regarding any of the children listed above? Yes No

If yes, please obtain a Custody Information Form from the office.

List the names and ages of other children living at home and not enrolled at BCS.

(over)

Bellingham Christian School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

Are parents alumni of Bellingham Christian School? _____

Are parents alumni of another private school? _____

How did you hear about Bellingham Christian School? _____

Church Affiliation _____

ENROLLMENT CONDITIONS

Please read each of the following items and sign below to signify your acknowledgment and approval of each.

1. We hereby invest authority in the school to discipline our child as necessary. We further agree that we will cooperate and discipline our children in the home as needed. (Prov. 13:24; 19:18; 22:6: 23:13-14; 29:15, 17; Eph. 6:1-2; Col. 3:20; Heb. 12:6)
2. We pledge our full cooperation to keep doctrinal controversy and denominationalism out of the school. (Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 13:1-13; Gal. 5:13-15, 25, 26; Eph. 4:1-7)
3. We agree to follow the principles as set forth in Matthew 18 to resolve any conflicts if they should arise.
4. We understand that we are liable for any damage to school property as a result of our child's actions, including breakage of windows, abuse of books, equipment or other school properties.
5. We agree to pay the tuition according to the arrangements we make with the school. Our tuition obligation must be met prior to the last day of school.
6. We have read and are in agreement with the school's statement of belief and pledge to uphold it in all our interactions with the school.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

APPLICATION PROCESS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Read all information in the Application Packet➤ Complete and sign this Application Form➤ Read and complete Application Essay➤ Complete Church Information sheet➤ Complete Previous Tuition Obligation form➤ Complete Individual Student Form➤ Complete Health Questionnaire➤ Attach a copy of your child's most recent report card➤ Send completed Application Packet to the school	<p>Send Application to:</p> <p>Attn. Enrollment Bellingham Christian School 1600 E. Sunset Drive Bellingham, WA 98226</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Please feel free to drop it by the school 1600 East Sunset Drive M-F 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM</p>
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Following receipt of the above information, you will be contacted for an interview. It is preferable to have both parents attend the interview if possible. Students in 4th through 8th grades are required to attend and student assessment may be required.



APPLICATION ESSAY

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Dear Prospective Parent(s),

We are excited about the possibility of serving your family. The school is committed to working with families who desire their children to bring glory to God in their academics, attitudes, and behaviors. The purpose of our admissions process is to help you and the school determine whether or not *Bellingham Christian School* is the education experience appropriate for your child.

Our school specifically serves families who want their children taught from a Biblical perspective in every subject area and who desire to see Biblical behavior standards reinforced. Families who are not committed to a uniquely Christian education may be better served at another area private school.

We ask that your family practice a lifestyle based on Biblical principles and vigilantly oppose the world's standards if you enroll your children in the school. No matter how well a Christian school performs, the good fruit of such an education will not be fully realized if the home is not living a Biblical lifestyle. In fact, because of the conflicting messages the students receive, it is possible that emotional and spiritual harm may ensue.

Parents who desire to identify sin as sin, teach the Lordship of Christ over all areas of life, expect cheerful obedience, and model love and forgiveness will find the school supporting such training. Homes that do not do this will find themselves in conflict with the goals and purposes of the school.

To assist you and the school in determining whether or not your son or daughter would benefit from our program, I have summarized a few areas of focus for you to evaluate and then respond to.

One area to check is your child's **view of authority**. The Bible clearly teaches us to respect authority, particularly the authority of parents. Do your children generally treat you with respect and love? If a child is frequently disrespectful to parents, he will be disrespectful to teachers. Although such behavior may occasionally occur, *Bellingham Christian School* is not a good option for your child if he is often disrespectful, unless he is willing to change.

It is our desire that staff members and students work to mirror the image of God. **Manners** are an area that can be viewed to help determine a person's respect and concern for others. As Christians we have an opportunity to witness to the world by upholding high standards of etiquette for our staff and students. The way a child acts while eating lunch, speaking to adults, sitting at his or her desk, just to name a few, often reveals his respect for others. Although we definitely don't want a military school where all students are controlled by the external force or fear of a "superior officer" we do desire that students, out of a love and respect for others, maintain a high standard of etiquette.

We believe that God is Lord over every area of life. This includes any subject that is taught at our school. Therefore, teachers will consistently make decisions based upon **Biblical discernment**. As Christians we believe our involvement in culture is going to be different than the world's. Is there evidence that your child is sensitive to growing in his Biblical discernment of what he should expose himself to? Or, is he eagerly accepting almost any attractive and popular theme of the culture? God exhorts us to think upon things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy. (Phil. 4:8-9) Is this Scripture and other Biblical principles the standard you desire to use for your family to filter out those things in the world from which Christians should abstain?

The **appearance** of your child is important. We believe school is a place for learning. Students should be willing to dress well. What we wear and how we appear is determined by our activity. People typically dress up for job interviews because it is important to them; they want to look good and do well. The same goes for weddings and other ceremonial occasions. However, playing outside or sitting

Bellingham Christian School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

around on a Saturday morning calls for a more casual style of dress. Dress then communicates an attitude. Students at *Bellingham Christian School* need to look nice when they come to school and demonstrate they are ready for learning.

Finally, a **strong work ethic** is expected from students. Although education can certainly be fun (and there ought to be planned times where students are thoroughly enjoying themselves), it is a mistake to think that all education ought to be entertaining and require minimal amounts of effort. Most things of value and excellence take hard work. We therefore need to teach students to *enjoy their work* rather than teaching them to enjoy themselves. Our desire at *Bellingham Christian School* is to work at **overcoming mediocrity** and to live purposefully in order to bring glory to Almighty God.

Lastly, we acknowledge that God has given the responsibility to parents of training up children in the way they should go. Because of this, the staff will work at speaking highly of parents and thinking of ways to promote the fifth commandment of God, to **honor fathers and mothers**.

Thank you for considering *Bellingham Christian School*. If you believe our school is where you want your child to attend, please answer the questions below and send in this sheet, the application form, and the Church Information form as soon as possible. Because some classes fill up quickly, it is important to get your application in as soon as possible if you are seriously considering our school as an option. Classes are filled on a first come first serve basis.

We look forward to serving your family. May God bless and keep you as you work to raise a family whose purpose is to give glory and honor to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!

Sincerely,

Bob Sampson
Administrator

Adapted and revised from an article by Tom Garfield of Logos School, Moscow, ID

Please neatly write or type how you support the above essay. _____

Please neatly write or type any mental reservations you have regarding the above essay. _____



CHURCH INFORMATION

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Pastor's Name _____ Phone _____

Name of church _____

Does everyone in the family attend? _____

Circle the one word to describe your attendance: Regular Occasional Seldom

Circle the church services and activities in which your family is regularly involved.
Sunday Morning Evening Midweek Youth or Children's

Is your family accustomed to daily prayer and Bible reading in the home? Yes__ No__

Circle the people in your family who believe you must be born again to be saved.
Dad Mom Children Neither

CONTINUED ENROLLMENT

We understand that Bellingham Christian School is a ministry to Christian families who are endeavoring to live the Christian life as taught in the Bible. We realize the school has the right to withdraw any student from the school should his or her family not be endeavoring to live the Christian life as taught in the Bible and interpreted by Bellingham Christian School personnel.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date



PREVIOUS TUITION OBLIGATION

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Private school attended: _____

Administrator: _____

Phone: _____

Private school attended: _____

Administrator: _____

Phone: _____

Private school attended: _____

Administrator: _____

Phone: _____

We certify that we have no outstanding balance at any private school and give Bellingham Christian School the permission to verify this fact by calling the above named administrator(s). We also give permission for the above named administrator(s) to release information regarding any outstanding balance.

Signature: _____

Date: _____



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT FORM

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Student's Name: _____

This section to be completed by parents.

1. List any academic strengths you perceive your child has. _____
2. Has the student had any scholastic difficulties in school? _____ If yes, please explain. _____
3. Does your child have an active IEP? _____
4. List any other special concerns about your child. _____
5. Has your child ever been expelled or suspended from school? _____ If yes, please explain. _____
6. Has the student had any disciplinary difficulty in school other than expulsion or suspension? _____ If yes, please explain. _____
7. Does the student have any physical, emotional, or other problems that may affect attendance or behavior? _____ If yes, please explain. _____
8. If we accept your child and you choose to enroll him or her, is it likely that he or she will attend our school for a full year? _____

This section to be neatly completed by student if 4th through 8th grade.

1. Do you want to attend our school? _____
2. How often do you go to church? _____
3. Do your closest friends attend church regularly? _____
4. What are some of your interests or favorite things to do? _____
5. Have you won any special prizes or awards in school? _____ If so, what? _____
6. Have you held any positions of leadership in any clubs or at school? _____ If so, what? _____
7. What are some of your favorite subjects in school? _____
8. What are some of your least favorite subjects in school? _____
9. Have you ever been kicked out of school? ___ If so, explain why. _____
10. What is your definition of a Christian? _____
11. Are you a Christian? _____ If so, when and how did you become one? _____



HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

BELLINGHAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Child's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Child's Birthdate: _____

I. Do you have any concerns about your child's health? _____

II. Medical History

Circle One

- Fainting spell Yes No
- Seizures Yes No
- Has or has had anemia Yes No
- Nose bleeds (how often) _____ Yes No
- Has child had any operations? (Explain) _____ Yes No
- _____
- Tonsillitis, throat infections (how often) _____ Yes No
- Ear infections (how often) _____ Yes No
- Frequent colds (more than once a month) Yes No
- Urinary or bowel problems (Explain) _____ Yes No
- _____
- Does your child have any other illness or chronic condition? If yes, comment. Yes No
- _____
- _____

III. Allergies-List animals and foods

- Drugs, bees, animals, etc. _____ Yes No
- Hay Fever Yes No
- Asthma, wheezing Yes No
- Food allergy _____ Yes No

IV. Vision

- Does the child wear glasses? Yes No
- Are there any other vision concerns? _____ Yes No
- _____

V. Hearing

- Frequent earaches Yes No
- Running ears Yes No
- Has anybody in the child's family suffered from childhood deafness? Yes No
- Concerns about hearing? _____ Yes No
- _____

VI. Growth

- Do you have any concerns about his/her weight or height? _____ Yes No
- _____

Bellingham Christian School admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

VII. Medical Care

- Do you have a family physician? Yes No
- Name: _____ Phone: _____
- Is your child seeing a specialist? Yes No
- Name: _____ Phone: _____
- What specialty: _____
- Is your child taking any medication? Yes No
- Is this **current** or **long-term** (Circle One)?
- Reason? _____
- Name of medication: _____

VIII. Dental Care

- Do you have a dentist? Yes No
- Name: _____ Phone: _____

IX. Physical Restrictions

- Does your child have any physical restrictions that would limit his or her activity? Yes No
- Restricted because of: _____
- Must avoid these activities: _____

X. Authorization for Emergency Procedure

If the parents and authorized physician named on this health questionnaire cannot be reached at the time of an emergency, and if immediate observation or treatment is urgent in the judgment of the school authorities, I authorize and direct the school authorities to send the pupil (properly accompanied) to the hospital or doctor most easily accessible. I understand that I will assume full responsibility for the payment of any services rendered.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE