

Dear Western Christian School Parents,

Wow, fall is just around the corner and it is hard to believe that our prayerfully sought vision of a permanent site for our High School is steadily moving forward.

During our Open House meeting, Western's Board Chairman, Dr. Ray McCormick, shared the example of Azusa Pacific University – one of the strongest, most prestigious Christian colleges in the nation began a few years ago as three small colleges, joining together to become an educational leader of something so much greater. We believe that God has an amazing plan in store for us as our two schools join together. **We believe our partnering together will help to create one of the strongest Christian schools in America.**

We continue to work through the exciting details and **prayerfully sought transition plans in the acquisition of Upland Christian** to join with Western Christian as partners of our school system of Preschool thru 12th grade. Your ideas, suggestions, and prayers have helped us to continue to make the most effective plans for our students and families throughout these schools.

We have had several parent meetings since last fall, in addition to our correspondence, where we shared the exciting news of the transition to Upland Christian's campus for high school. I have enclosed some of the main points that we have discussed at these meetings, including the factual benefits of your child's overall education at Western. I have also enclosed a question and answer section to help clarify our transition plan.

P.S. Scholarship Applications are available in any of our offices.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans that I have toward you says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Partnering together on behalf of our kids,
Karen Winter, Superintendent
Western Christian Schools

Why your child is worth the continued investment at Western Christian Schools:

1. A legacy of academic excellence since 1920, with 3,650 alumni.
2. 95% of Western Christian graduates are accepted into the college of their choice!
3. Accelerated Academic Results – **Western student's score 1-4 years above the national norm. The National Academic Norms are much higher than California's**, since California's public schools continue to score some of the lowest of all the schools in the Nation year after year.
4. **Western's 8th graders score Post High School, 4 years above the National Norm!**
5. Highest accreditation standards: Six year term for WASC and ACSI accreditation.
6. A nurturing, safe, family environment is our top priority.
7. Competitive athletics give opportunities for talent to shape Christian character and perseverance.
8. Excellent fine arts develop and enrich God's gift for each student.
9. Our advanced technology prepares our kids for the competitive future.
10. Elementary thru High School, International Program, and Independent Study Program.

Western Christian and Upland Christian: Partnering together to help create one of the strongest Christian schools in America by providing, strengthening and expanding the following:

1. Strengthened Expanded Academic Programs
2. Improved Electives and AP Courses
3. Expanded College Prep Offerings
4. Faculty Expertise Improved
5. Increased Outreach Opportunities for Students
6. Expanded Leadership Opportunities
7. Expanded Extracurricular Opportunities
8. Improved Marketing and PR Sources

Transition Plan

1. Review of both schools courses with an emphasis on improvements and expansion
2. Focus on athletic facilities and classroom improvements
3. Academic improvements we have identified as priorities:
 - Add technologically advanced Smart Boards to classrooms
 - Improve course offerings
 - Add additional science labs
 - Expand the middle school electives
4. How will we bring schools together?
 - Communication Meetings with UCS and WCS Parents, Administration and Students to identify key transitional issues/suggestions
 - We have a transition committee of parents of both schools to share ideas. If you are interested in being a part of the Transitional Parent Team email: kwinter@westernchristian.org or ryovino@westernchristian.org
 - We have had some dialogue already about school traditions of both schools and a meeting of both schools student government representatives this month to share ideas, traditions, and to build unity.
 - Student government of both schools help with ideas and plan events for students
 - Chapel and Bible leadership classes expanded to involve more students

Let's agree to:

- Pray and fellowship.
- Work together to support in unity.
- Believe God for great things.
- Speak positively of our schools. If you have a question, suggestion, or praise, please let us know.
- Get involved in helping to move the transition forward.

General Questions and Answers about the Transition with Upland

Q: When does Western expect escrow to close on the purchase of the church and school property?

A: *Because of the arbitration delay, the escrow process was delayed. The escrow is now proceeding and we anticipate it will close in the near future.*

Q: What about transportation?

A: *We are in the process of analyzing our current busing program to meet the needs of our parents. We are considering expanding our bus routes and expanding this service to our elementary and middle school students. The expansion area would include the Cities of Covina, Upland and surrounding cities. We will be working with a consultant in transportation to help us determine the expansion and the costs. We believe that the cost will be affordable and a reduction in bus fees over this year. It is our desire to come up with solutions that will allow us to partner with the parents and coming alongside to make it possible for their child(ren) to attend Western Christian Schools.*

Q: Can the UCS facilities accommodate the additional students?

A: *Yes, the enrollment was much higher on the campus a few years ago (2003-04 the enrollment was 845 students) and the facility is licensed adequately for the number of students that would potentially join the campus.*

Q: Will uniforms be required for all students?

A: *We will continue our K – 11 uniform policy and allow HS Seniors to have free dress with our current guidelines.*

Q: Accreditation?

A: *Western and Upland are both dually accredited with WASC and ACSI for six year terms. Western is currently K-8 WASC accredited (ACSI pending spring accreditation).*

Q: Athletic teams and coaches:

A: *Teams will be selected and fielded in an unbiased and open tryout manner, which is the current method of selection for both Western and UCS. There will be ample opportunity for participation, depending upon enrollment and the number of students who try-out for the teams at the Frosh-Soph, Junior Varsity and Varsity levels. Coaches will have the opportunity to sit down together with the administration and process the most equitable and professional way to join together and provide quality and cooperative coaching for the students.*

Q: UCS Athletics Eligibility, CIF qualifications and transfers:

A: *All Western students and UCS students who remain with the school are automatically eligible, pending grades and credits received to continue participation in the athletic program. Students who leave Western or UCS will need to file Hardship Eligibility paperwork with the S. Cal. Section of the CIF, in order to play any sport at any new school.*

Q: How do Western Students, Faculty and Parents feel about joining the UCS campus in Upland?

A: *Our parents and students are very excited about being a part of this new family and look forward to building many positive Christian friendships and godly relationships in the near future.*

Q: Will our current Preschool through 8th grade programs at Claremont still be offered next fall?

A: *Yes, all programs are continuing at Claremont.*

**These prospective comments are all subject to Western Christian Schools' closing on this transaction.*

Questions about the purchase transaction

Western Christian Schools' Responses Concerning the Purchase Transaction:

Q: Why was the transaction kept legally confidential and did that violate any ethical guidelines for the purchase of the property?

A: *Western Christian Schools, on advice of counsel, entered into confidentiality agreements concerning this transaction which, we are told, are typical of transactions of this kind. To violate the terms of those agreements would be unethical in addition to being illegal. Although these agreements constrain the flow of information to nonparties, they also prevent the unwarranted disclosure of information that could be harmful to parties, or to nonparties who call for more disclosure. Western Christian has worked hard in disclosing relevant information to Upland Christian School's constituencies concerning the transaction, especially with regard to Western's vision, without violating any confidentiality agreement.*

Q: Why did Western Christian not communicate directly with Upland Christian Schools concerning the transaction?

A: *Western Christian Schools reasonably determined early that the owner of Upland Christian Schools was acting through authorized representatives and all communication concerning the transaction was and is directed to those representatives and subject to confidentiality agreements constraining disclosure to nonparties.*

Q: Is the Purchase by Western Christian "unethical" or "un-Christ-like?"

A: *It is Western Christian Schools' view, after considerable prayer and discussion by the board of directors and administration, that the current transaction with the District is, in addition to and more importantly than being legally enforceable, morally ethical and exhibits Christ-like concern to Upland Christian Schools' administration, staff, parents and students. Western Christian acknowledges that the transaction has produced feelings of discomfort for Upland Christian Schools various constituencies. These feelings are understandable by Western Christian who, in its history, also experienced dramatic and uncomfortable change in the 1960's when a major portion of its school at that time was closed for financial and other reasons and its campus eventually sold. That board, just as the current one, sought after the Lord's will in managing this 88 year old private Christian school. Were some of the hard decisions made by Western Christian concerning the current transaction perfect? No, but they were always made ethically. Do Christian people always make perfect decisions? No. Is Western Christian Schools committed to legally and ethically advancing the cause of private Christian education in the Inland Empire? Yes.*

The Nazarene District's Responses Concerning the Purchase Transaction:

Q: Did Western interfere or stop any offers in regards to the purchase?

A: *No. In fact, Western agreed to wait on their purchase completion or stand down for a brief time for an offer to come from the plaintiffs or interested parties.*

Q: Did others present any acceptable offers to the District?

A: *No. There was not an acceptable offer presented to the District. There was a document received indicated to be a letter of intent without any purchase price. We did not receive a follow up call.*

Q: Was the offer acceptable or why was the offer not granted or responded to by the District?

A: *We did not receive a specific offer, only a letter indicating intent with no purchase price or other terms. Further, we were in litigation being sued by the people presenting the unspecified offer. Some sources have said specific offers were given to the district for the school. There were no monetary offers of any kind to the district.*

Q: Why was the transaction kept legally confidential and did that violate any ethical guidelines for the purchase of the property?

A: *Most real estate transactions where property or a business is involved, is undertaken with confidentiality agreements in place. The law provides for these protections of the buyer, the seller, interests of others such as parents, students and employees, so the school can continue and protect the value of the business of the school, while they conduct their due diligence investigations of the entity and future course. Under the law, both buyer and seller have a duty to protect each other's business information and not disclose it to third parties in order to protect the school's reputation, mission and ministry, including the goodwill, value, and the enrollment potential. The goal of this transaction is to enhance the value of UCS and provide the best education to our students to benefit the parents, teachers and employees of UCS and continue the legacy of Christian education.*

Q: Explain the Arbitration Process:

A: *Both sides through their attorneys and with the permission of each person of the plaintiffs and a few of the defendants agreed to the terms and conditions under which the arbitration occurred. The terms were negotiated by each side in writing. Since the plaintiffs brought the initial lawsuit, they had the initial choice and agreed to arbitration. The information to the panel arbitrators prepared by each side was sent to the neutral advisor by attorneys for each side. The neutral advisor then spoke with the arbitrators and the materials from each side were delivered to the arbitrators by the neutral advisor. It was very fair, and great pains were taken to ensure fairness. The case was heard before three godly and good, respected men, who heard all the evidence presented by both sides. After all parties presented their case, the arbitration panel rendered the decision, which was ruled unanimous for the District and against the plaintiffs on all counts.*

"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4: 1-3