



SCCS Mission Statement

Sandhills Classical Christian School graduates citizens of excellence who observe, think and articulate with humility, reason and clarity for the glory of God.

Sandhills Classical Christian School Vision 2020

The board of Sandhills Classical Christian School, in prayerful and humble submission to the will of God, proposes this vision statement to our respective stakeholders in an effort to clearly define and delineate our goals for SCCS out to the year 2020. Understanding our weakness as finite and sinful human beings, the SCCS board recognizes that we, in partnership with the SCCS staff and parents, are simply stewards of God's property. As God reveals his intent for this school, our goals may change according to his perfect will, however we will not waiver upon the four core principals from which we derive this vision.

Our Core Principles

1. SCCS seeks to be excellent in every respect.¹ We define excellence as giving one's best effort to achieve a focused purpose while learning and growing through contemplative reflection. Excellence does not mean perfection, but rather begins with the humble recognition that we are imperfect and sinful creatures dependent upon the sovereign wisdom and grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² Achieving excellence requires our staff, board, and students to be focused, diligent, disciplined, and humble.
2. The ultimate purpose of SCCS – its students, staff, board, and volunteers – is to glorify God through education.³ SCCS views all subjects through the lens of Biblical truth as expressed by the Holy Scriptures; God *is* truth, and all truth, whether found in mathematics, science, language, history, or the arts, belongs to God.⁴ Therefore, all teachers, staff, and board members are required to be professing Christians.⁵
3. The educational philosophy of SCCS is to teach our students how to think critically. SCCS uses the classical methodology, which consists of the three stages of learning known as *The Trivium*⁶ (*Grammar* [K-5], *Logic* [6-8], and *Rhetoric* [9-12]) to give students the tools they need to “learn how to learn.” True education consists of training minds *and* hearts⁷; SCCS seeks to cultivate character (humility, self-discipline, courage, charity, kindness, and integrity) as much as intellect.
4. The ultimate responsibility for education of children rests with parents.⁸ SCCS partners with parents to assist them in meeting this responsibility and expects our parents to stand firm with us in full support of these core principles.

¹ Philippians 4:8; Colossians 3:23; 2 Peter 1:5-8

² 1 Peter 5:6

³ The first question of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism of Faith*: “Q: What is the chief end of man? A: The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

⁴ John 1:1-3

⁵ 2 Corinthians 6:14

⁶ See Dorothy Sayer's Essay, *The Lost Tools of Learning*.

⁷ Romans 12:2-3

⁸ Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Our 2020 Vision for SCCS

Excellent Students

We desire our school population to be representative of the Sandhills community, with a K-12 student population of 200-250 and a graduating class of 10-15 seniors by 2020.

We expect our students to be excellent, not perfect. Our students have a variety of gifts, talents, *and* shortcomings. It is our goal to assist the development of each student according to his/her individual gifts and talents while at the same time recognizing and overcoming individual challenges for which our staff is trained and equipped.

Our respective stakeholders expect that we set and maintain academic standards of performance for our students to advance in grade and stage of learning. Students will demonstrate the level of academic maturity required to be successful in the next grade or stage. We welcome transfer students from private and public schools that do not use classical methodology. SCCS staff will work with parents to ensure a smooth transition.

Excellent Teachers and Staff

SCCS expects our teachers and staff to be professional, competent, and sincere, to love students, and to be passionate about teaching and classical education. All teachers will be trained in classical philosophy and methodology. Additionally, we expect that our teachers will seek out opportunities to further hone their understanding of classicism and how to apply it in the classroom.

SCCS recognizes that our teachers are our most important assets. Therefore, we must make every effort to recruit and retain excellent Christian teachers. It is the goal of SCCS to offer competitive compensation packages for our teachers and staff. This includes, competitive pay, health benefits, and retirement packages. We will be as flexible as possible with our compensation packages in order to tailor them to teachers' individual needs.

The standing of SCCS within the Sandhills community depends upon our credibility (professionalism, competence, and integrity); therefore, we will strive to uphold the credibility of the school in every business and personal transaction.

Excellent Campus and Facilities

SCCS will have an independent campus accommodating at least 250 students. We desire to build quality facilities to support our rigorous curriculum. Quality facilities include but are not limited to a school library, a networked information technology system to support classroom research and administrative needs, a science laboratory, a language laboratory, art and music facilities, a school cafeteria, an assembly center or theater, a gymnasium with boys and girls locker and shower facilities, athletic fields, faculty break/work room, conference rooms, and an administrative suite.

Excellent Fiscal Management and Donor Support

Our credibility in the eyes of our respective stakeholders largely depends on our ability to responsibly manage our financial gifts. For this reason, we desire an active, informed, and dedicated financial advisory group who not only will hold the board and the staff accountable to our short and long-term fiduciary responsibilities but also will provide advice on raising and investing capital.

SCCS expects to finance curriculum support requirements (books, teacher supplies, teaching tools, etc.) as well as the daily operating costs of the school (salaries and benefits, mortgage, utilities, maintenance, etc.) through student tuition. At the same time it is our desire to keep tuition competitive with other private schools in the Sandhills. Therefore, in order to finance the expansion of academic programs, facilities, extra curricular programs, tuition assistance and scholarships, we will require a dedicated and diverse donor base.

SCCS will maintain a capital development committee, led by a full-time development specialist, and staffed by talented and dedicated parent volunteers to advertise for the school and seek out potential donors and sponsors.

Excellent Curriculum

Within the boundaries of classical methodology, there are numerous curricula for each stage of *The Trivium*, each with advantages and disadvantages. Although our adherence to classical methodology will not change, we realize that at times our curriculum will require adjustments, especially as our staff and teachers discover and create a more robust and effective curriculum. In order to maintain an excellent curriculum, we seek to establish an annual curriculum review board consisting of administrators, teachers, and parents who are well versed in classical methodology as well as the core subject areas.

Excellent Extra-curricular Programs

At SCCS we realize that education is not limited to the classroom. It is our goal to provide a diverse array of extra-curricular activities for our students including, but not limited to the following: team sports, music, drama, games, academic competitions, clubs, and student government. We will rely heavily upon our teachers and parent volunteers to organize, lead, coach, and mentor our students in extra-curricular activities.

Spiritual Vitality

The SCCS Board seeks the prayerful support of passionate parents, committed staff, dedicated students, beneficent donors, and ardent supporters. We view this school as a gift from God of which we are mere stewards. Knowing that apart from Christ we can accomplish no good thing,⁹ we ask for devoted and confident daily prayer, calling upon God's blessing of protection, wisdom, and grace as we seek his will for SCCS from now through the year 2020 and in to the future.

⁹ John 15:5