

THE VISION

RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE.

REFLECTION & ANTICIPATION

BY DANIEL ELDRIDGE, RCA BOARD CHAIRMAN

God wants us to remember, and he has given us special gifts to help. Whether it was a rainbow, a special feast to commemorate a great miracle, a stack of stones from the Jordan River, or a single standing stone on the battlefield, God gave His people markers to help them remember. To this day, part of the richness of the Jewish culture is their diligence in observing traditions, feasts, and holidays that originated in Biblical times.

Jesus, Himself, specifically commanded Christians to remember Him through the practice of the Lord's Supper. It is through the long, retrospective view of history that the hand of God is most easily seen.

This year marks a special milestone for RCA. It was 20 years ago that the school opened its doors to 62 students in preschool through 6th grade. The rustic campus was housed among a few portable classroom trailers, an old store, and even an old house. In those early days, the school offered a before-school program, and some students arrived as early as 6:15 each morning. At 7:45, teachers walked their classes along the covered, wooden sidewalks to the chapel area where everyone gathered for songs, lessons, and memory verses. Lunch was served in each classroom from the grocery cart donated by a local grocery store. The daily menu was from McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Whitt's Barbeque, or some other local restaurant. Recess was either on the dusty lot with the tire swing or, on rainy days, in the basement of the store building. Many of the teachers taught combined classes. Those days were both wonderful and difficult.

Those first families exhibited a great deal of faith in this young school. I sometimes marveled that they chose to take a chance on RCA. I have thought a lot about that over the years, and I believe they were motivated by two things. First, the energy, commitment, and dedication of our teachers in sharing God's love to their students was so evident. It was obvious that they had a heart for the ministry of Christian education and for the students and their families. Parents can easily recognize a true servant's heart, and they want their children learning from that kind of example each day. Second, despite all the challenges of that rustic campus, the hope for a better future lay just up the hill. The new 68,000 square foot building was under construction, and everyone could watch with excitement the progress that was being made each day. That new building represented an unmistakable commitment to the future, and parents knew the school was in it for the long haul. They were right.



RCA's first student body during the 2001 inaugural year.

I enjoy thinking about those days and how far we have come over the years. I have so many good memories, and I love to reminisce. As I look back, I can see so many different ways in which God blessed and provided for the school. I believe scripture teaches us, however, that while God does want us to remember, His point in that is not just for the sake of nostalgia.

God asks His people to remember the past, so that they are better equipped to impact their future. We talk in terms of "building" our faith and of cultivating spiritual "growth". Rest is scriptural; idleness is not. As I think about how far God has brought RCA, I believe that only shows how He has been equipping us for even greater things in the future. After 20 years, we have not arrived. We are only beginning.

The past year-and-a-half has been difficult for the school. Like every organization or church or family, there are those pivotal moments that cause us to reassess and re-evaluate things. Those times can be painful, but also very beneficial in the long run. I believe we have now emerged stronger and more focused, and I could not be more optimistic about the future of RCA. I am thankful that God brought us the right leader in Dr. Rushing. As I have gotten to know him over the past several months, I have seen that he truly has a servant heart. As we collectively look toward the future, let us look again to what lay up on the hill. An exciting future, firmly committed to building character, changing lives, and impacting the future. If looking back to remember the past can teach us anything, it is that God has great things in mind for the future of RCA!

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And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

- PHILIPPIANS 1:6



FAST FORWARD

BY: DR. LAWS RUSHING

The present is not just influenced by the past, but by the future. The founders of RCA had a blazing vision of the future that has been largely realized today. It came with many victories and some defeats but a pioneering spirit propelled this school forward to success! The best way to honor our rich 20-year history is to not lose sight of the vision forward! The future can be a daunting endeavor because of the unknown before us. Here are a few statements, as we look forward to the next decade.

"I DO"

This little wedding declaration is extremely helpful when considering the future. I can think of no greater phrase looking forward with determined trust in another. We must declare our commitment to God now because this will be our greatest guide in the seasons that lay ahead. We devote this school into the covenantal trust of Almighty God. It is within this assurance that we continually seek His

will for RCA through prayer and reliance on His word. The overwhelming future becomes very manageable when securely placed in our Sovereign God! Let us continue to heed the words of Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

"IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT."

The phrase doesn't consist of the best grammatical usage, but it is profound nonetheless. RCA has been gifted with some great traditions and policies. There can be a temptation to change things for change's sake and to give the illusion of forward thinking when in reality, we are moving away from what is actually working efficiently. As we move forward, let's strive to work on the things that really need to be improved and not try and reinvent the wheel at every turn to our own peril.

"CARPE DIEM"

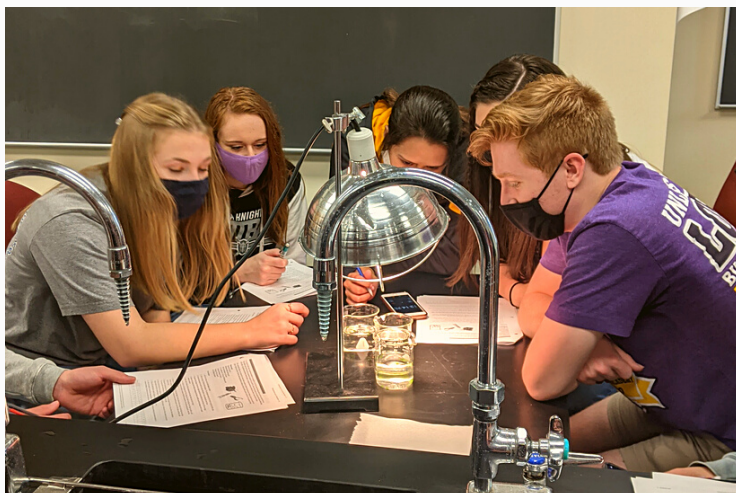
This Latin phrase which means "seize the day" was popularized by the movie Dead Poets Society. We

are at a pivotal point and now have an extraordinary opportunity to make an even bigger impact on the lives of so many students. Our vision must be one which honors the greatness of God and the commission that we have been given. Let us resolve to change the world through Christian education, one student at a time. Let us seek to fully educate our students through discipleship to Christ, academic excellence, and character formation in a loving community.

We have created a five-year plan in conjunction with our accreditation process that focuses on several areas from financial stewardship to academic improvement. We plan on streamlining our enrollment process to include continuous enrollment which simplifies the process for our families and requires less paperwork. We are looking to improve our curriculum and introduce elements of classical education into our program of study to give broader depth and analytical skills to students. There are many great things on the horizon for RCA which means an even brighter future for our students!

RCA'S ACCREDITATION RENEWED

Riverside Christian Academy's dual accreditation through the National Christian School Association and Cognia was renewed after the accreditation team's visit in November. After three days of evaluations, meetings, and interviews, the accreditation team recommended RCA for another five years of renewed accreditation, and said that RCA's culture and family atmosphere was the school's greatest strength.



RCA WINS TSIAA DIVISION 2 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

The RCA Knights won their fourth football championship on November 21 in the Tennessee State Independent Athletic Association Division 2 championship game at Christian Community School in White House, TN. The Knights defeated Franklin Classical School 36-14 to secure the win.

UPPER SCHOOL IS 1 TO 1 WITH CHROMEBOOKS

All RCA middle and high school students now have their own chromebook. The chromebooks allow for personalized assignments, adaptive learning, distance learning for the immune-compromised, and easier communication between the students and teachers.



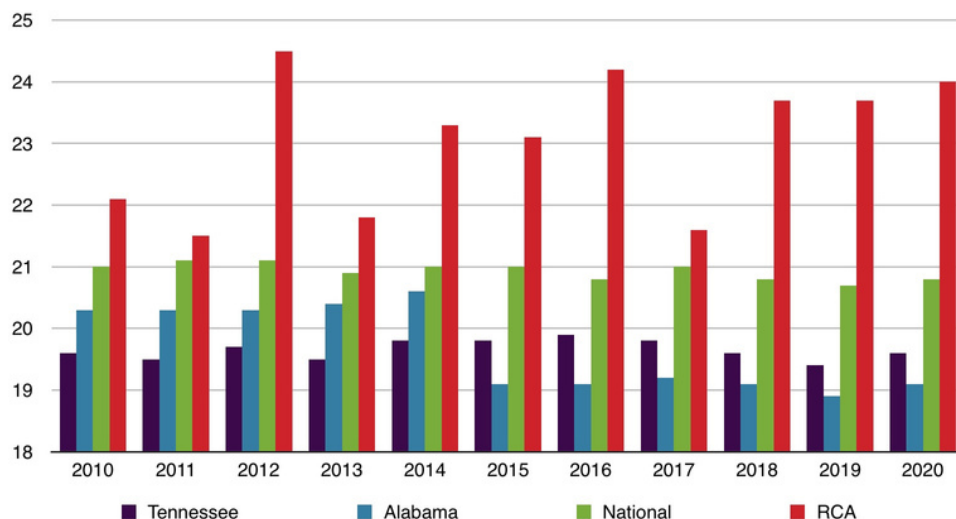
MORE THAN \$37K RAISED ON GIVING TUESDAY

84 unique donors combined to give \$37,804. We are so thankful for the generosity shown to RCA on Giving Tuesday. We believe in fully educating our students through discipleship to Christ, academic excellence, and character formation in a loving community.

RCA IS COMMITTED TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Did you know that Riverside Christian Academy seniors have outpaced national and state averages on the ACT college entrance exam every year for the last decade?

RCA's Class of 2020 was offered a total of \$2,668,260 in scholarships, that is an average of more than \$116,000 in scholarships per graduate!



A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT RIVERSIDE IS AMONG THE MOST AFFORDABLE OF COMPARABLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN TENNESSEE.

Did you know that RCA ranks as the **third** most affordable accredited private school in the state of Tennessee?

FAMILY REFERRAL CREDIT PROGRAM

EARN TUITION CREDIT

Current RCA families can earn tuition credit for their students through referring other families to RCA!

# of New Families Recruited	Tuition Credit
-First Family	\$250
-Second Family	\$500
-Each Additional Family	\$1,000

**Referral credits are subject to family referral credit policy.*

IN 2020, RCA OFFERED OVER \$185K IN STUDENT TUITION DISCOUNTS.

