



# **Dominion Classical Christian Academy**

Stewardship Report from the Board  
January 8th, 2008





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## Introduction

Dear Family and Friends of Dominion,

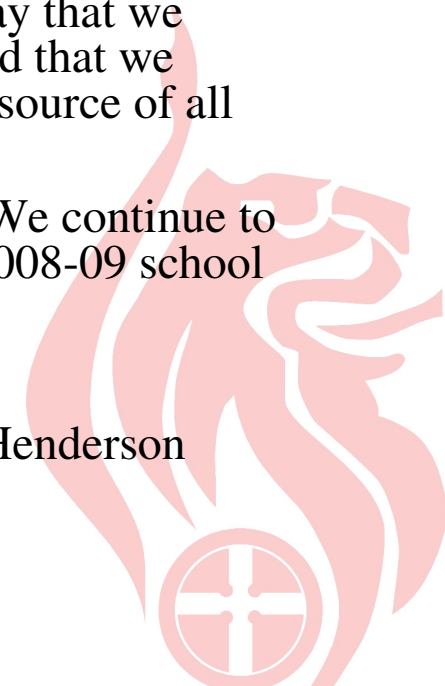
We are pleased to again provide you with this stewardship report. God continues to bless Dominion, showing Himself strong in the imperfect obedience of our board, staff and families.

Those who oversee, instruct in and administer this school purpose to model a lifestyle of lifelong learning. We labor in this way that we might grow in our love of the good, true and beautiful and that we might more fully worship the One who is the author and source of all these things.

Please share your thoughts on the details of this report. We continue to covet your prayers as we look to the second half of the 2008-09 school year and beyond.

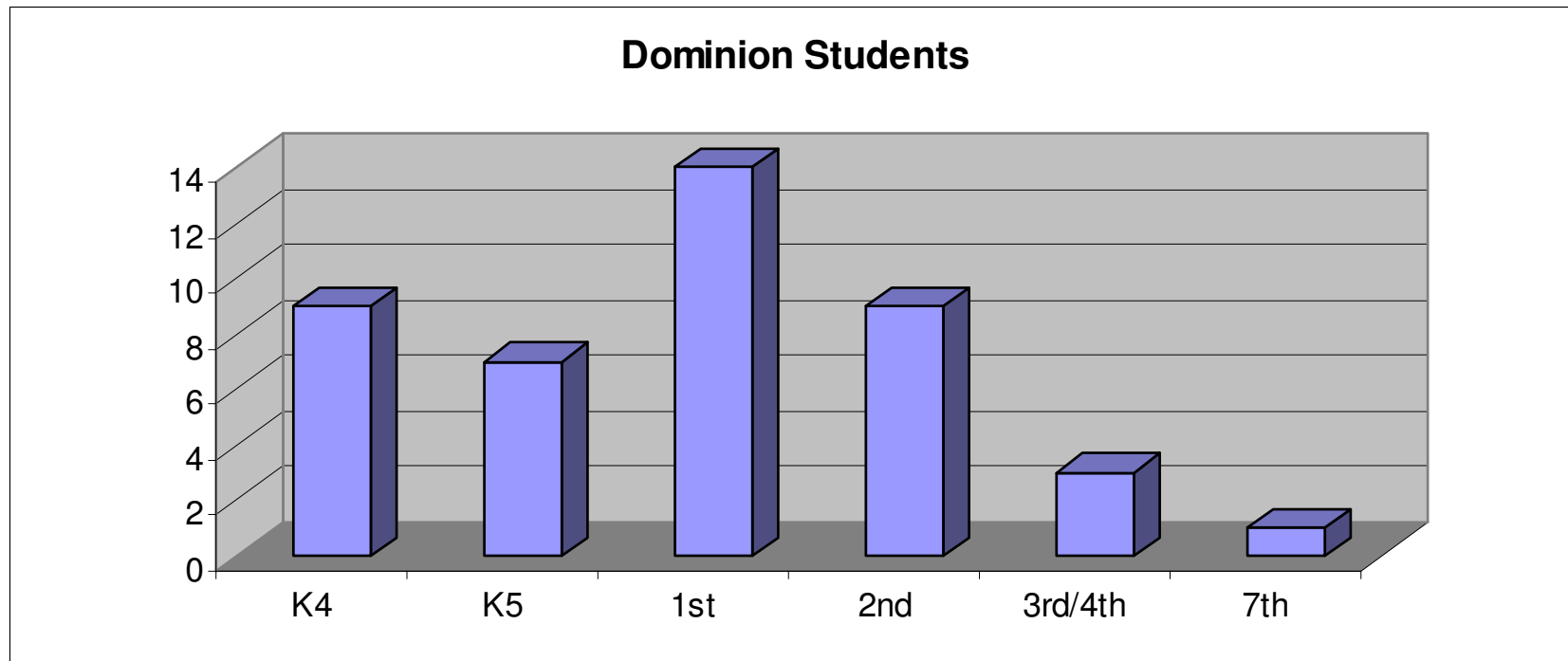
In Christ,

Greg Beadles, Derek Monjure, Alfie Meek and Marcus Henderson  
DCCA Board of Trustees





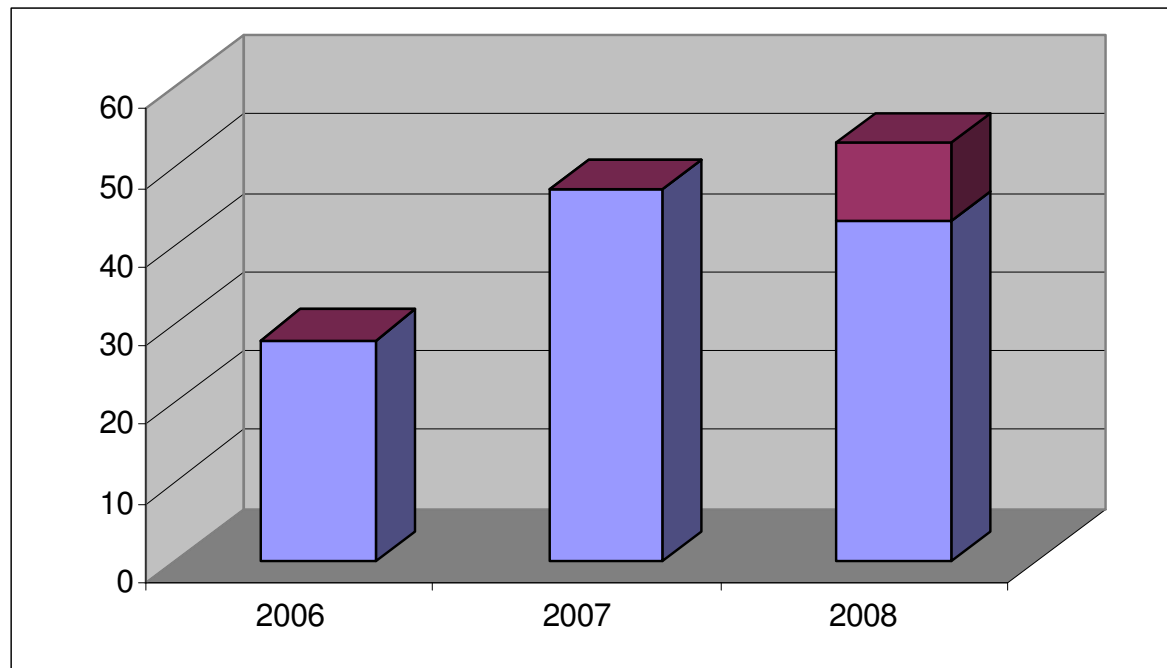
## 2008-09 Enrollment



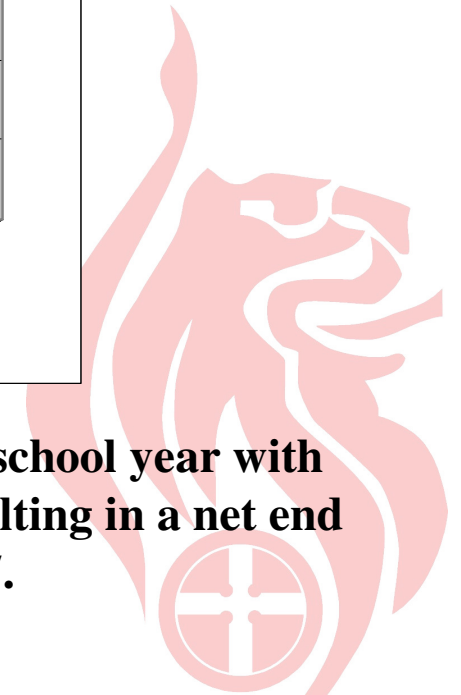
**Dominion is composed of 43 students from 27 families in grades K4-7<sup>th</sup>. Our growth is from the bottom up – 91% of our students are in K4-2<sup>nd</sup> grade.**



## Dominion Enrollment History



**Dominion enrollment has increased each year. We began this school year with 53 students but lost 10 students after the school year began resulting in a net end of the year drop of 4 students compared to 2007.**





## Academic Update – 2007 Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) DCCA National School Norms

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Core Total</u>
1	99	98	98	99
3	92	94	93	94
4	99	99	98	99
6	99	99	98	98

The ITBS is a norm reference test and is comparative from school to school. For example, Dominion's first grade class scored better in reading than 99% of other first grade classes in reading.

Although we are proud of our students' superb scoring on the ITBS, we recognize it is a secular standard of academic achievement that does not entail all aspects of a classical Christian education.

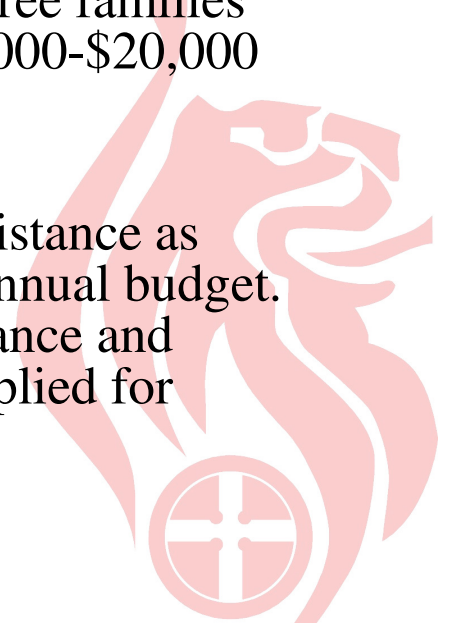


## Financial Overview

Dominion operated through our first two years with a surplus of \$94,000. This surplus was achieved through charitable giving to the school of nearly \$110,000.

We were budgeted to again operate with a small surplus this year but experienced a one-time event with the loss of three families that will require us to dip into our reserves by \$15,000-\$20,000 to meet our obligations.

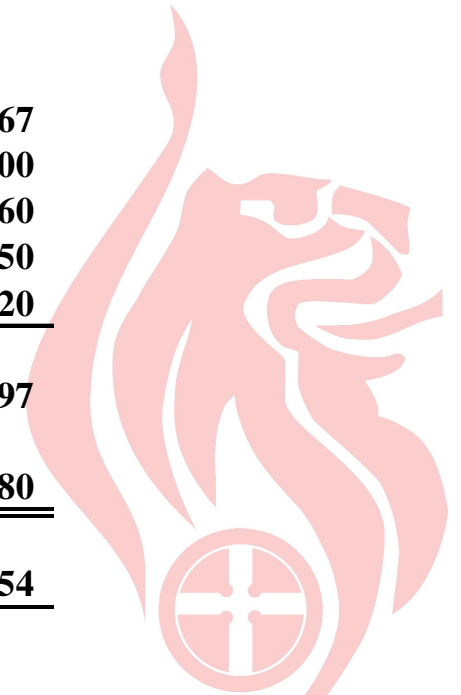
The board purposes each year to provide tuition assistance as funds are available to at least 10% (a tithe) of the annual budget. Dominion awarded over \$23,000 of financial assistance and discounts to teachers, ministers and families that applied for tuition assistance this school year.





## 2006-08 Financial Summary

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008B</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Tuition and Fees	\$ 116,520	\$ 176,950	\$ 203,372
Donations and fund raising	64,799	45,055	39,800
Other income	1,347	4,124	2,505
	<hr/>		
Total income	182,667	226,129	245,677
<u>Expenses</u>			
Payroll and related	76,067	156,407	194,367
Books and supplies	16,069	14,018	15,000
Rent and utilities	8,723	14,379	13,860
Training and conferences	5,011	10,229	8,750
Other expenses	7,400	6,419	13,520
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Total expenses	113,270	201,452	245,497
Net Proceeds	<u>\$ 69,397</u>	<u>\$ 24,677</u>	<u>\$ 180</u>
Cumulative Net Proceeds		<u>\$ 94,074</u>	<u>\$ 94,254</u>





## Board of Trustees

### Founding Board Members:

- ❖ Derek Monjure
- ❖ Greg Beadles

### Elected Board Members (3 year term):

- ❖ Alfie Meek (2007-2009)
- ❖ Marcus Henderson (2008-2010)
- ❖ An additional elected board member to be added next year for a total of 3 elected board members (nominations due Jan 16)

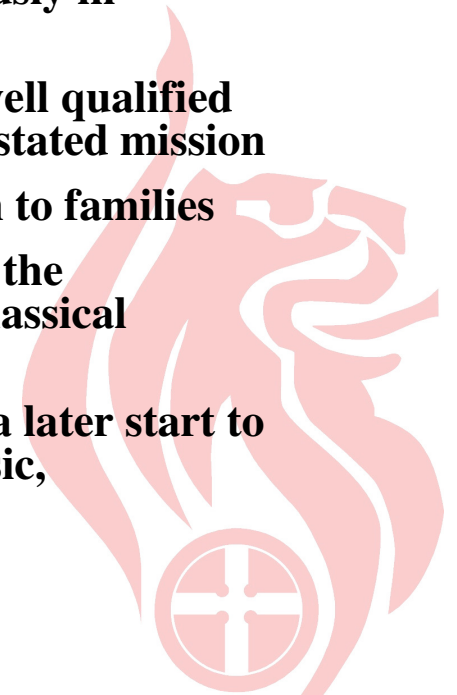




## 2007-08 Family Survey

To gain additional insight into what Dominion families feel is working well and what might be improved, the Board commissioned an online anonymous survey of families at the conclusion of the 2007-08 school year. The key takeaways were:

- 1. Most of our students are new to school or were previously in another private school (80%+)**
- 2. Dominion is providing a high quality education with well qualified teachers in a proper environment and maintaining its stated mission**
- 3. For 2008-09 we needed to improve our communication to families**
- 4. Families most like: A truly Christ-centered education, the community that has been developed among families, classical Christian approach and our mission and vision.**
- 5. Families would most like to see: A five-day program, a later start to the school day, better communication, electives of Music, PE/Athletics, Art and Foreign Language.**





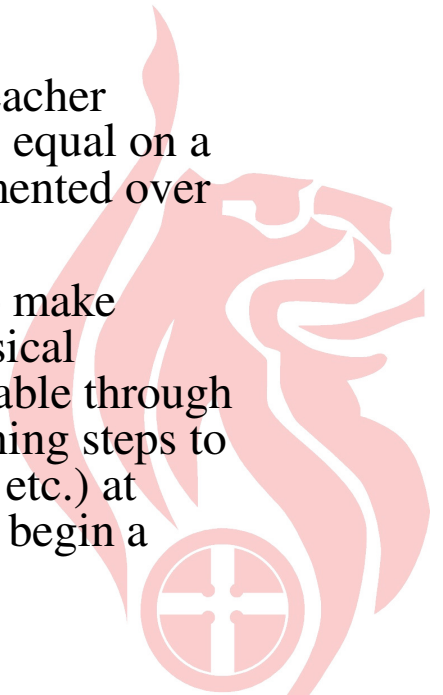
## Long Term Vision

**The board of Dominion has continued to study a 5-10 year plan for the school. Issues discussed at the 2008 board retreat included:**

**Accreditation:** Headmaster Cain will continue the accreditation process with the Georgia Accrediting Commission and begin exploration of accreditation with SACS and GACS. Our goal is at least provisional accreditation during the 2009 school year.

**Teacher Salaries:** Dominion was again able to raise our teacher salaries for 2008. Our goal is to eventually provide salaries equal on a pro rata basis to public school salaries. This will be implemented over time as student enrollment grows.

**Extracurricular and Electives:** This year we were able to make electives available for interested families in music, art, physical education and applied science. Piano lessons are also available through a Dominion instructor. We view these classes as the beginning steps to future extracurricular activities (orchestra, drama, athletics, etc.) at Dominion. The school has received a generous donation to begin a library of our own.



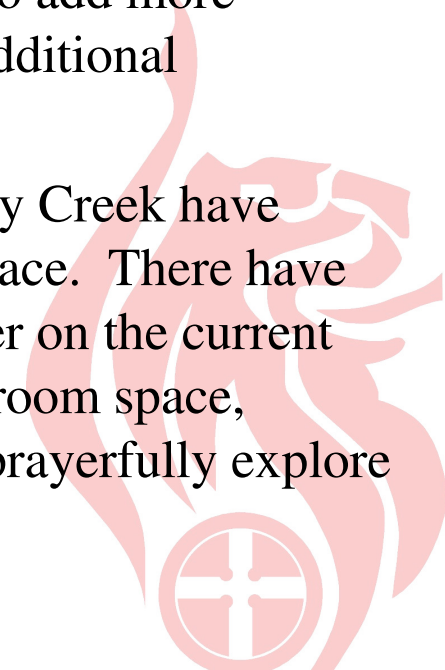


## Long Term Vision (cont.)

**Enrollment Goals:** The board has set an enrollment goal of at least 12 new students each year for the next 3 years. This would make Ivy Creek a viable home for Dominion through the 2011 school year. We can accommodate approximately 80 students at our current location.

If our growth goals prove conservative and we were to add more students over the next 2 years, we may have to find additional classroom space as early as 2010.

**Discussions with Ivy Creek:** Both Dominion and Ivy Creek have current and future needs with additional classroom space. There have been mutual explorations of possibly working together on the current 12 acre site that would benefit both parties with classroom space, playing fields and more. The board will continue to prayerfully explore this option along with others.



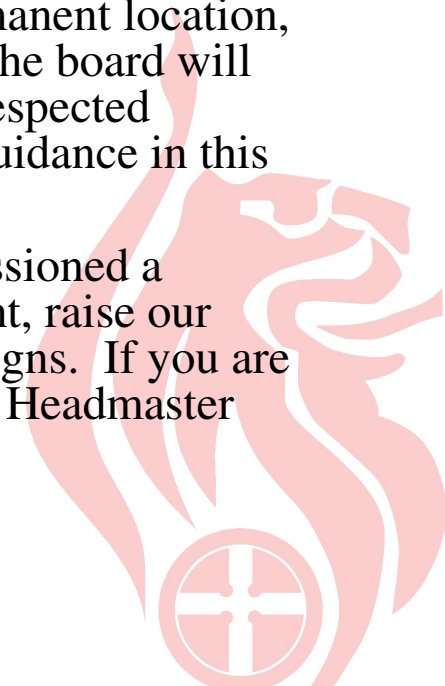


## Long Term Vision (cont.)

**Reasons for Permanent Location:** The board desires to ultimately have a permanent location for Dominion Classical Christian Academy. The purposes for a permanent home include building a generational legacy for Dominion, establishing an influential presence in our community and offering our families and students greater opportunities for learning.

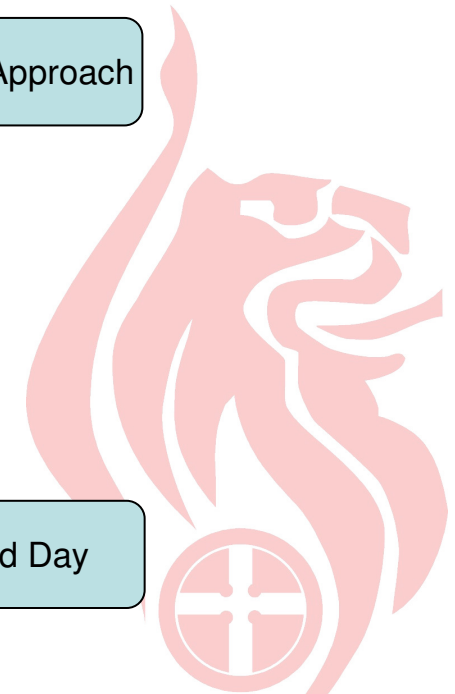
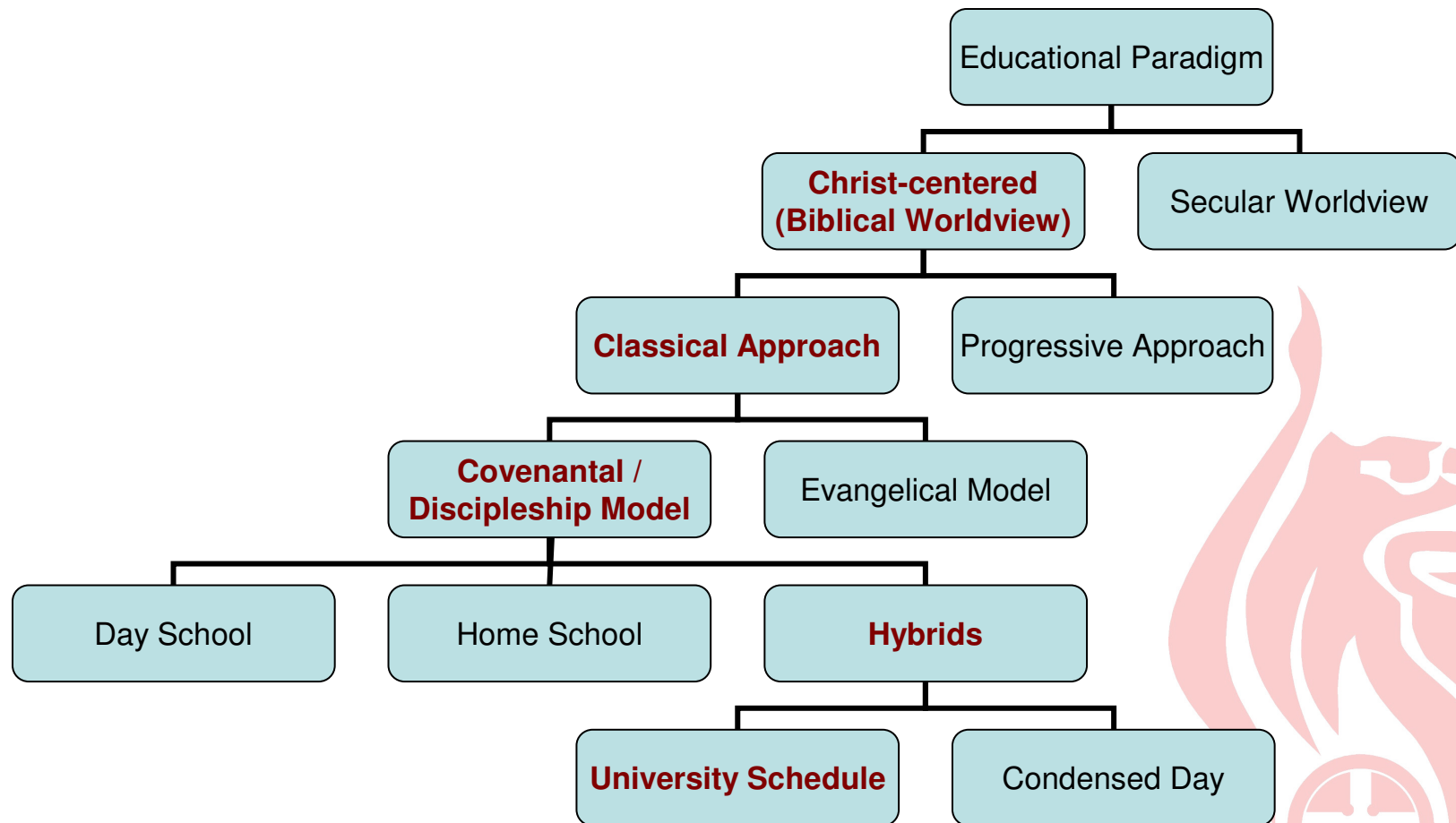
**Capital Campaign:** In order to meet the goal for a permanent location, we could launch a capital campaign in the near future. The board will continue to study effective campaigns initiated by well respected classical Christian schools and to pray for wisdom and guidance in this area.

**Marketing Committee:** The board has recently commissioned a marketing committee to assist in plans to grow enrollment, raise our profile in the community and support fundraising campaigns. If you are interested in assisting with this committee please contact Headmaster Cain or Charles Godwin.





## Dominion's 'Family Tree'





## **Benefits of current approach:**

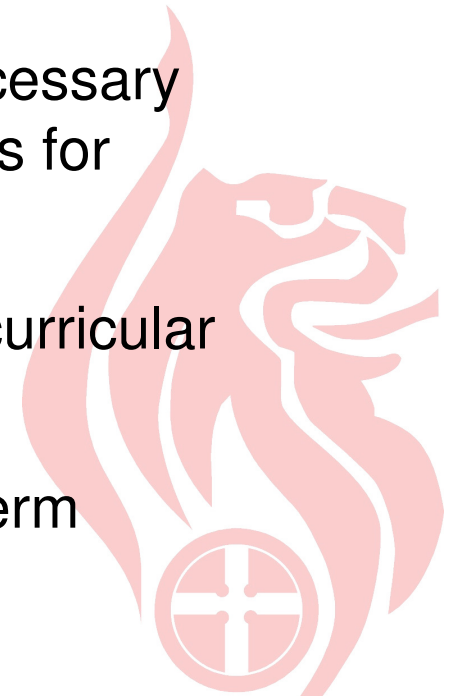
- Family as the center of gravity
- Extensive parental involvement
- Flexibility of schedule
- Small size of school fosters community among families
- Cost effective education





## Challenges of current approach:

- Limits depth and consistency of instruction required in a truly classical Christian education
- Restricts pool of available teachers
- Too greatly restricts pool of new families – unnecessary exclusion, financial hardships and limited resources for future can result
- Restricts accreditation options and related extracurricular opportunities
- In aggregate, these challenges hinder the long-term growth and viability of Dominion





**How do we best maintain and steward the mission and vision of Dominion in light of our current benefits and challenges?**





**We believe our current benefits can be retained, challenges mitigated and the long-term growth and viability of Dominion enhanced by a change in format.**

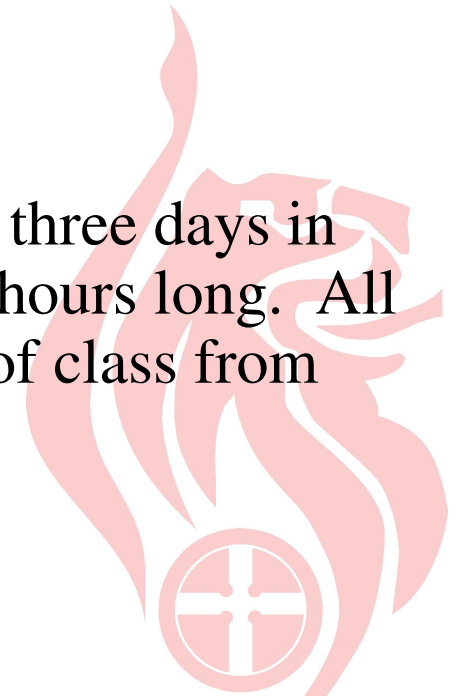




## **New Format for 2009-10**

Beginning next year, 1<sup>st</sup> grade students and up will attend Dominion five days per week. Our school day will be condensed to a total of five hours, beginning at 8:30 AM and ending at 1:30 PM for the core curriculum.

K4 and K5 students will maintain a schedule of three days in the classroom. Their core day will also be five hours long. All students will have electives available each day of class from 1:30 to 2:30 if desired.

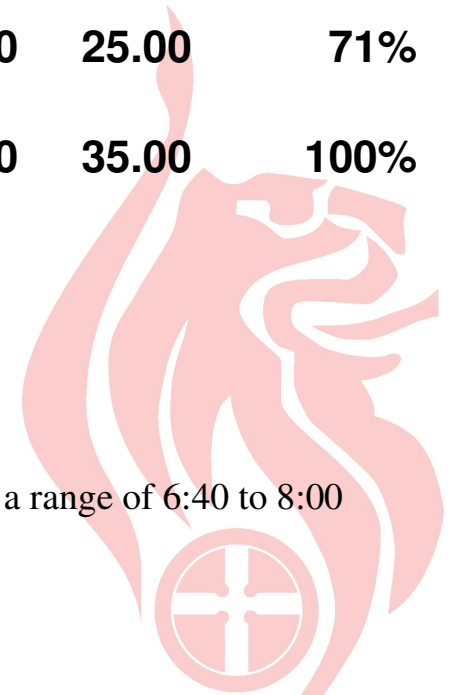




## Format Comparisons:

<u>Format</u>	<u>Hours in the classroom</u>					<u>Total</u>	<u>% of Full Day</u>
	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>		
<b>Current University Schedule</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Condensed Day Schedule</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Full Day Schedule</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

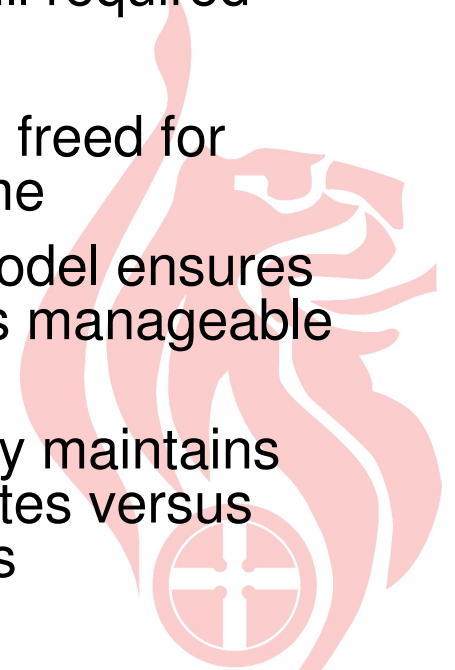
The average school day for Christian schools in Gwinnett County is 7:01 hours with a range of 6:40 to 8:00 per day. Source: Seven school websites reviewed.





## Impact on Benefits:

- Family as the center of gravity
- Extensive parental involvement
- Flexibility of schedule
- Small size of school fosters community among families
- Cost effective education
- Students in class ~30% less than full day schools
- High level of parental involvement still required
- Afternoons are freed for more family time
- Discipleship model ensures school remains manageable size
- Condensed day maintains lower tuition rates versus full day schools





## Impact on Challenges:

- Limits depth and consistency of instruction required in a truly classical Christian education
- Restricts pool of available teachers
- Too greatly restricts pool of new families-financial limits
- Restricts accreditation options and related extracurricular opportunities
- In aggregate, these challenges hinder the long-term growth and viability of Dominion
- Teachers empowered to fully implement a classical pedagogy
- Increases pool of teachers
- Maintains covenantal approach but encourages growth
- Option of pursuing accreditation with several organizations
- Believe new format sets the foundation for future growth and for establishing a generational legacy

