



Hutt Valley Christian School 2010 Prospectus

www.hvcs.nz



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ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Hutt Valley Christian School is a small, independent Christian school for Christian boys and girls located in the Hutt Valley area, New Zealand.

The secondary school, Wainuiomata Christian College, was founded in 1991 on our own grounds primarily to serve students graduating from the Silverstream Christian School in Silverstream. The schools were started by the Reformed Church community for the education of their children in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Bible. The two schools merged in 2008 to form the Hutt Valley Christian School. For the 2010 year, the two schools will revert back to independently run schools.

The focus of the college has broadened from its original aim and its goal is now to provide sound Christian education through secondary years for parents who want their children to receive both a quality education and a bible based understanding of the world around them. The School is open to students from any Christian denomination, as long as they agree to abide by the statement of faith the School Board has put in place and the school rules.

The school is owned and operated by the Christian School Association (Wellington District) [CSAWD], a registered charitable trust. A Board is appointed by the Association membership to govern the school and oversee the day-to-day management of the school. The board members represent a number of churches throughout the Wellington region.

OUR AIM

Hutt Valley Christian School exists to assist parents in the fulfilling of the Scriptural requirement to educate their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). We believe the 'fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom' and base our entire curriculum on the reliable and solid foundation of God's Word, the Bible.

We recognise the primacy of the parents in the education of their children, and to this end we work proactively to ensure that parents have visibility of their children's work and achievement in school hours. We welcome parents into the classroom to watch the class and are always happy to talk with parents about their children's activity. We also warmly welcome parents who want to offer their time to assist in the classroom.

MISSION STATEMENT:

TO EQUIP, BASED ON THE SOLID FOUNDATION PROVIDED BY A CLASSICAL AND REFORMED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, OUR STUDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO CULTURE MEANINGFULLY AND DEFEND THEIR FAITH INTELLIGENTLY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.

OUR CURRICULUM GOALS

WITH REGARDS TO CHRISTIANITY

Hutt Valley Christian School holds to the reformed faith that traces back to the theology of the reformers. Specifically the school seeks to do the following:

- Affirm the Sovereignty of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all areas of life, recognising Him as the Creator and the one who sustains all things as they exist for His glory;
- Teach all subjects as part of an integrated whole with the Scriptures at the centre (2 Timothy 3:16-17) in order to equip the child for their role in this world;
- Provide a clear model of the biblical Christian life through our staff and Board (Matthew 22:37-40) as this is essential to delivering a biblical curriculum;
- Encourage every student to begin and develop his relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 19:13-15), to live in a godly manner in church, family and society and to prayerfully seek to bring all these areas into conformity with God's will.

WITH REGARDS TO EDUCATION

Hutt Valley Christian School works on the basis of a classical education, focusing on reasoning, logic and critical thinking through the college years to ensure the students are thoroughly prepared to engage the world as they head into higher education and become productive members of society. Specifically in our education we seek to:

- Emphasise the fundamental rules of each subject, the ordered relationship of particular in each subject, and the clear expression of these for each subject;
- Encourage every student to develop a love for learning and live up to their academic potential;
- Provide an orderly atmosphere conducive to the attainment of the above goals.

THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR CHILD

A Christ-centred education seeks to teach children to hold precious the truths taught in God's Word. In knowing the truth, they will then be able to understand the world around them in the correct way and thus live and think in a manner that is true to reality.

THE SPECIFIC BENEFITS WE BELIEVE OUR PROGRAMME WILL GIVE YOUR CHILD ARE:

- A biblical Christian world and life view,
- Good communication and thinking skills,
- A thorough grounding in Scripture from an historic Protestant perspective,
- Sound academic instruction aimed to equip them to serve God in this world,
- Fellowship in a community of faith and learning,
- A deep appreciation for the heritage we enjoy from our past, particularly the strong Christian influence from Western Europe.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We hold to the historical confessional statements of the Protestant Reformation which accurately reflect the teaching of the Bible (hence the name Reformed). The particular ones we adhere to are the Heidelberg Catechism of 1563, the Belgic Confession of 1567, the Canons of Dort (1618-9) and the Westminster Confession of Faith of 1643.

We draw from these documents the following guiding principles:

- God has created all things out of nothing; therefore there is nothing in the universe that can be understood correctly apart from Him.
- Man was created in the image of God and directed to exercise dominion over the world in obedience to Him.
- Man sinned against God and thus became blind to the true meaning of the creation and the Law of God.
- Jesus Christ is the Son of God, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the father who for us and our salvation was made man, suffered, died and on the third day rose from the dead and ascended into heaven
- Christ restores man to fellowship with God, and renews the mind unto a right knowledge of God, self and the world.
- The significance of Christ's redemptive work touches all things.
- Christ claims the whole of life, and therefore the Christian view cannot be blended with other systems of human thought.
- The Bible as God's written Word is man's only infallible authority, the only key to the knowledge of God, self and the world.
- God has commanded parents to nurture and educate their children in the Lord. In order to aid parents in this responsibility Christians should establish Christian schools.
- Christian Schools function directly under the authority of Jesus Christ. They are not ecclesiastical institutions.
- The purpose of Christian education is to inculcate the truth in order to equip the child for his calling in this world.

We are committed to a “young earth” view of creation believing that the days of Genesis Chapters 1-3 are just that, days of normal length. We believe the creation week occurred in the recent past of about 6,000-10,000 years ago.

WHO CAN COME TO HUTT VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL?

Hutt Valley Christian School is open to students from homes where at least one parent is a confessing Bible-believing Christian. We welcome families who wish to provide their children with a specifically Christian education. We believe it to be our Christian duty and privileges (Westminster Confession of Faith XXVI.1.2) to assist Christian parents fulfil their duty in this matter, hence we accept enrolments from like-minded families.

The process for enrolment involves the following steps:

- Submission of an enrolment form to the school. This should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the spiritual overseers of the family from the fellowship or church group they attend.
- Following a satisfactory interview with the Principal and a Board Member, parents are asked to commit to a Parent-School Covenant which forms the basis of the relationship between the family and the school for the duration of their time at Hutt Valley Christian School.
- The Board must formally approve the enrolment based on the report from the interview. The outcome of this will be conveyed to the family. The Board of Directors reserve the right to refuse certain applicants and to decline to re-enrol students who prove unsuitable or whose parents fail to keep their side of the Parent-School Covenant.

The enrolment is not secured until the family pays the agreed first instalment of tuition fees.

Interested parents can contact the school to visit and meet with the Principal.

The Parent-School Covenant and other information is available on our website (www.hvc.school.nz)

An enrolment pack can be obtained from the Administration Assistant at:

HUTT VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PO Box 43-127

WAINUIOMATA 5014

PHONE (04) 564-8552 OR FAX (04) 564-9305

E-MAIL: ADMIN@WELLINGTONCHRISTIANSCHOOLS.ORG.NZ

Applications should be sent by post to the school. Parents will be contacted to arrange an interview.

All new enrolments are provisional for one term and reviewed annually thereafter.

MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS

PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Support the discipline and instruction of the school and uphold the school and the individual teachers before their children. It is implicit in the act of enrolling and sending their children that full authority to teach is being granted by parents to all teachers at the school. Where any school procedure is disagreed with, teachers should be consulted privately so that matters can be discussed and resolved,
- Continue as active and regular worshippers of God (along with your children) at a fellowship where there is spiritual oversight of the family. Should this change, parents are expected to inform the Principal and discuss the implications of this for their children's' education,
- Inform the school of any absences either by telephone or written note,
- Support school policies by helping to ensure that their children's dress and behaviour are in accordance with requirements,
- Take an interest in their children's studies by discussing them with them, and overseeing homework where necessary,
- Read and sign their children's diary daily,
- Encourage in their children a concern for others, and a responsible attitude towards the rules of the school and society in general,
- Provide adequate study facilities and conditions for their children in the home,
- Participate, where they can, in fundraising activities, working bees etc.,
- Fulfil their obligations under the Parent-School Covenant including those associated with payment of tuition and other fees associated with their children's education. Tuition fees are to be paid by automatic payment at regular intervals (monthly, fortnightly, or weekly) and the Treasurer is to be notified as soon as possible if there is a problem in keeping this commitment.

PARENTS CAN EXPECT THAT THE SCHOOL WILL:

- Provide capable and concerned teachers,
- Provide adequate facilities and maintain a safe environment,
- Contact them where there are serious learning or discipline problems,
- Provide opportunities for them to be heard and be involved,
- Provide clear guidelines regarding academic requirements for their children,
- Provide a Christian environment for their children of care and integrity.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Attend regularly and punctually,
- Act honourably as befits one privileged to be a child of the covenant of God (I Cor. 7:14),

- Strive to be a genuine student by making their education their own project, admitting their ignorance, not allowing themselves any excuses for not learning, and focussing on the details, - attend with interest to the material to be learned,
- Reproduce in their own minds the truth to be learned in each lesson,
- Behave sensibly and in accordance with school requirements,
- Use their God-given talents and abilities to the fullest,
- Display a respectful obedience and manner to those in authority,
- Fulfil assignments, meet due dates, and participate fully in school activities.

STUDENTS CAN EXPECT THAT:

- Teachers will care and pray for them,
- Teachers will be interested in them as people,
- The school will provide them with as much help and guidance as possible,
- The school will establish clear guidelines for work and behaviour and be consistent and just in its supervision of them.

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

LOGIC YEARS (YEARS 9-10)

We take advantage of the natural argumentativeness of students in this age group and seek to develop their ability to reason well.

Particular subjects taught at this level are: Bible, English, Mathematics, Science, Formal Logic, History, and Physical Education.

Bible is taught with an emphasis on the logical basis of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Wherever possible students will be interacting with great literature (e.g. we include well known influential western authors such as Shakespeare) and ideas that shape western thought.

Our core curriculum in science and mathematics in particular is modelled around the Cambridge International Examination Lower Secondary Programme.

RHETORIC YEARS (YEARS 11-13)

Students in Year 11 (Form 5) are taught Rhetoric which aims to develop skills of godly and persuasive communication and draws together the previous years. Students are expected to prepare a research based thesis in Year 11 and orally deliver this to an audience of staff and their peers.

Cambridge IGCSE examinations are used to provide students with an internationally recognised qualification reflecting their degree of achievement. Presently, students are prepared for external examinations in English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science. Rhetoric and Bible are internally assessed courses. Students will also be enrolled for NCEA Level 2 Classical Studies with the Correspondence School or some other subject if preferred by parents.

Note: Year 1-132 will not be offered in 2009. We are hoping to offer this level again in 2011.

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Cambridge qualifications are known worldwide for the excellent education they deliver, preparing students – from primary to pre–university – for the next stages of their academic or vocational careers.

Students find Cambridge qualifications enjoyable and accessible, and find success achievable. International in approach, the syllabuses are interesting to teach, relevant and up to date.

For more information about Cambridge International Examinations please visit the CIE website at <http://www.cie.org.uk>.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

We believe that education should be for the whole person. Part of our programme seeks to immerse students in the beauty of God's creation.

Students in Years 9-11 (Forms 3-5) will be involved in a major hike in the Rimutaka Forest Park. The aim here is to encourage students to test themselves by meeting some of the challenges tramping in hilly terrain presents and by learning to live and work with their classmates.

These activities will require additional funding over and above the normal tuition fees. Students are expected to participate in fundraising activities to reduce the cost to families.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The size of the school limits the range of sports that can be offered at present. We have an arrangement with Wainuiomata High School for our students to join their school teams. Most students are involved in sports through local clubs. We have our own Netball teams involved in the school competitions and participate in local Christian school athletics and swimming competitions as well as inter-school cross-country events.

We have entered teams into the Wellington Speaking Union inter-school debating competition.

We run a series of competitions in areas such as Netball, debating, speech and drama, volleyball and so on within the school based around the four Houses (Calvin, Farel, Knox, and Zwingli). Each family is assigned to a House for the duration of their time at the school.

We celebrate Reformation Day (October 31) each year and parents and supporters are invited to participate with us in this. This is the anniversary of Martin Luther's famous act of nailing his 95 Theses on the door of the Wittenberg Church in Germany in 1517 - the event which sparked what is now known as the Protestant Reformation.

All students in Year 9 (Form 3) and up are required to deliver a devotion to the senior school student body possibly once or twice a year at the regular senior school assembly. This gives students confidence to speak in public and develops their ability to handle the Word of God. All students are expected to participate in the school choir and may be called upon to perform for special occasions.

2009 TERM DATES

TERM 1

Tuesday 2 February, 2010	Teacher only day
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Wednesday 3 February, 2010	Classes commence
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Thursday 1 April, 2010	Last day of term 1
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TERM 2

Monday 19 April, 2010	Classes commence
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Monday June 7, 2010	Queen's birthday holiday
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Friday 2 July, 2010	Last day of term 2
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TERM 3

Monday 19 July, 2010	Classes commence
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Friday 27 September, 2010	Last day of term 3
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TERM 4

Monday 11 October, 2010	Classes commence
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Monday 25 October, 2010	Labour day holiday
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Friday 29 October, 2010	Reformation day celebration at school
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Sunday 31 October, 2010	Reformation day anniversary
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Thursday 13 December, 2010	Prize giving evening
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Friday 14 December, 2010	Last day Term 4
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ENDORSEMENT

Wednesday October 10th 2007

It was my considerable privilege to spend three days recently in Silverstream Christian School and Wainuiomata Christian College. I am currently enrolled in a PhD programme with Macquarie University, Sydney, investigating classical education in general, and classical and Christian schools in particular. As your schools are the only ones in New Zealand where a classical approach is offered, it was a wonderful opportunity to observe classes and discuss the specifics of classical education with staff and management. Although this was a short visit, yet in both schools I was impressed by the high standards and expectations set for the children, and by the warm and friendly atmosphere in all classrooms. My congratulations to Martin and all the staff for their commitment and expertise. There is genuine evidence of the intention to train children to “Love the LORD your God with all your heart, and all your soul, all your mind and all your strength”. The more I read about classical education, the more I am convinced that it is the only worthwhile approach to prepare children faithfully in accordance with scriptural principles and in such a way that they grow to fulfil their God-given potential. After nearly 40 years in education I grieve at the constant watering down of curriculum content, and the godless policies our educational authorities impose on our schools. The heart of schooling is being torn out. It is a joy then to know that there is at least one community willing to make a stand for something better – much better. May I offer you my congratulations for your stance and encourage you to remain firm in your conviction that classical education really does offer both teachers and learners the richest and most God-honouring preparation for life. Best wishes to you all for the future.

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ERO REPORT

The Education Review Office’s latest report on the School is available at <http://tinyurl.com/kwyqyg>.