



## *Jon Harkema*

**SPOUSE:** Joelyn  
**EMPLOYER:** Fox Motors  
**CHURCH:** Friendship CRC  
**EMAIL:** jhark\_6@hotmail.com  
**CHILDREN:** Lillian (12th @ SCHS), William (9th @ SCHS)

### WHY DO YOU FEEL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS IMPORTANT?

I feel Christian education is important because we are instructed over and over again by the Bible to teach our children in the of way the Lord. A few examples are Proverbs 9:10, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and Colossians 2:3.

### EDUCATION AT SOUTH CHRISTIAN IS BASED ON A REFORMED UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE AND THE WORLD. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU, AND HOW DOES THIS MAKE SOUTH CHRISTIAN DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS?

A Reformed understanding of Scripture means to me that all Scripture is God-breathed by the Holy Spirit. Not made up by the human mind. That God rules over all creation. Nothing is by chance. It all is a part of God's plan. That by God's grace, I am saved. He sent his son to this earth to die on the cross to deliver me from my sins so that one day I will be with him in Heaven. I understand that my earthly good works and deeds will not get me to heaven alone. With South Christian holding to the same belief, that makes it stand out from other private schools.

### HOW IS YOUR LIFE CHRIST-CENTERED?

To the best of my ability, I try to live my life with Christ at the center. Through my actions, my thoughts, and my words I try to show Christ's love in all I do even though I know I will fall short sometimes. But because of God's grace, I know he will forgive me and will continue to help me live like him day after day.

### WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS OR ABILITIES DO YOU SEE YOURSELF BRINGING TO THE BOARD? (Examples might include education, legal, finance/budgeting/planning, building facilities, fundraising, promotion or marketing, strategic planning, interpersonal skills.) ALSO, IDENTIFY ANY LEADERSHIP OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN.

I served 2 terms on DCS board. While serving those terms I was Chair of B&G. Involved with the budget, tuition assistance, and Scholarship committee. Involved in hiring a new administrator. Involved in two Capital campaigns. I have served 3 terms as a Deacon. I have served on both the governing and Pastoral side. Chaired the Deacons. Worked on the budget and other financial committees. Currently serve and have served many years as a Sunday school teacher.

### WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FACING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN GENERAL (AND SOUTH CHRISTIAN SPECIFICALLY) IN THE COMING YEARS? FEEL FREE TO SHARE IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE FOR FACING THESE CHALLENGES.

A few challenges I see facing South Christian are keeping Christ first and center, growth, tuition cost, and discipline. Keeping Christ first. Satan is always at the door doing anything he can to change our minds/thoughts to the ways of the world. We need to stay rooted in the word and not let the world's views or thoughts influence how and what we teach our children. Growth, we have had a lot of growth in the last few years. I feel this comes from not only newly built homes in our area but also because of our beliefs and how we are teaching our children. Our public school systems have let some of the worldly thoughts in and have been doing some crazy things. This has pushed some parents to choose a private school over a public school. Tuition cost. This one always has and will continue to be a challenge. I think everyone reading this would hate to hear of a family deeply wanting to give their child a Christian education but can't because of cost. Discipline. With the evils of this world getting stronger and stronger we need to stay strong on discipline when it is justified and not relax it because times have changed. Or that is not that bad anymore.