



## Tammy VanderKam

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

Christian Education is such an important part of the commitment we make at baptism to raise up our children to know, love, and serve the Lord. It teaches students to live out their faith and see God at work in every subject they study. It allows for a community of teachers, staff, students, and parents to come together and show love and support for one another in the name of Jesus. Christian Education allows the day to start and end in prayer, Bible classes to be taught, and God to be glorified through devotions and chapels.

### 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?

The Bible is the word of God and the only truth to build my life upon. God is in control of all things at all times, and I can trust in Him and His Word as authority in my life. My sin separates me from God, and only through the death and resurrection of Jesus can I be saved from my sins. In response to God's amazing love for me and to show my gratitude, I choose to live a life that glorifies Him, that loves and serves others. This makes South Christian different because we don't just talk about God, but we teach students what it means to live for and serve Him every day of the week, not just Sunday. We read and teach the Bible to lead and guide us.

### HOW IS YOUR LIFE CHRIST-CENTERED?

My life is Christ-centered through reading the Bible and making that a priority in my day. I understand the importance of being an active member in my church and school community and the importance of growing in my faith through worship and serving others. I seek the will of God through prayer and scripture in both the big things and the small things.

### 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 know God will equip me in whatever way He calls, but I enjoy organizing people and documents. I've been given the ability to break big tasks down into smaller, more manageable lists. I've previously served on the school board (education committee, executive committee, and search committee) where my kids attended elementary/middle school. I currently serve as part of the planning/leadership team for the women's Bible study at our church, and for many years served on the leadership team for the preschool program.

### 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.

There are many challenges to Christian education that we face. I believe most importantly, we must hold firm to the word of God and not allow worldly ideas to change South Christian, but be willing to stand firm even when it's not 'popular'. Finding and hiring staff with a strong, reformed Christian faith (during a teacher shortage) and equipping them to handle difficult situations well. The messages of the world are loud, and it will be important to partner with parents to teach students to be discerning in what they hear and teach them how to know truths from half-truths and untruths. Teaching kids how to live a balanced life (school, sports, work, social media, etc.) and quiet the voices of the world while seeking God's will.