



## Steve Van Laan

**SPOUSE:** Valerie  
**EMPLOYER:** Van Laan Construction Supply  
**CHURCH:** Peace Church  
**EMAIL:** stevevl@vanlaan.com  
**CHILDREN:** Jessie (graduated from SCHS), Larissa (12th @ SCHS), Taylor (11th @ SCHS), Drew (7th @ DCS)

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

I believe kids need to be taught about God and Christianity in order for their Education to truly be complete. We are educating kids to prepare them for their future, for careers, and for the world. Everything they are learning was designed by God the Father so if that education does not include being taught about Him and the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus then they are not fully educated nor fully prepared. They can, of course, learn these things in other places (Church, youth group, etc.) but what better place than at a school where they already spend the majority of their time during these years and where they can learn to view all subjects, sports and other extracurricular activities through a Christian lens, taught by Christian teachers and coaches and in a Christian environment. So when they complete their Christian education they are much better prepared for the world.

### 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 and the world means we believe that salvation comes only by the grace of God through faith--and is not something that can be earned through works. South Christian differs from some other private schools by attempting to teach every subject from that Reformed worldview.

### HOW IS YOUR LIFE CHRIST-CENTERED?

I try to keep my life Christ-centered through daily prayer and through a daily time of devotions or Scripture reading as well as weekly Church attendance. Along with these routines I try to look at all of my decisions and actions through the lens of a Christ-honoring life. I of course fall short often in this, but that is the goal.

### 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.

Some of the experiences that would most likely aid me in serving on the SC school board are the roles I have served in at Dutton Christian School. I served for 9 years on the School Board there as well as numerous more years on a number of different committees some of which are still ongoing. There are also a number of skills I have learned from operating my own business that tend to be useful in a role on the School Board.

### 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.

Some of the challenges I see facing South Christian is managing growth and doing so while retaining or even strengthening our commitment to being a Christ-centered school.

The growth that SC is experiencing and expects to continue over the next number of years will impact obviously our facilities but also nearly everything we do. There will need to be a lot of thought, planning, and preparation in order to handle that growth well.

We always need to be on guard that SC remains Christ-centered but this can be even more important during a time of growth. With many things potentially changing we need to be especially careful to not compromise what matters most.