



East Palmyra Christian School

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Dear Friend of EPCS,

Since the fall of 2018, **we have seen an annual average of 28% increase in enrollment**, leading to a 154% increase in enrollment over those four years. We could not have predicted this tremendous growth, but God knew. Following His lead, we walk in daily faithfulness continuing to enroll Christian families both within this school year and on the waiting lists for next year. The Board of Trustees, the administrators and the families who run our parent-run school do not see this slowing down just yet.

As a Classical and Christian school, our school motto is a bit different than government schools.

Faciem Tuam Domine Requiram -----“Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

It's from Psalm 27:8, and we are thankful for you for coming along side us as we continue to seek the Lord's face. Not only that, we pray for each image-bearer of God who comes through our humble school to grow in their desire and to run the race set out for them, following the victorious saints who ran ahead of them. We are seeking His face and His kingdom, unto the uttermost ends of the earth.

We're writing to you **to announce both a blessing and a challenge!** A gracious donor has challenged us to raise \$20,000 for this year's Matching Campaign! This means between now and April, all donations received will be matched up to the challenge amount. In other words, you, as a friend of East Pal, are invited to help us raise \$20,000—and that will then be matched to contribute a total of **\$40,000** towards Christian Education!

We think this is possible even during a time of economic difficulty because of a **second blessing**. God has blessed East Pal with another 30% increase in the student count this past year to 137 students! With more families, their relatives, church communities, and friends, even the smallest donations add up quicker. Be assured that even small amounts are a blessing. EPCS does not want anyone to hurt their own financial future but to give wisely so that they can give for a lifetime. ***There are also ways to prudently give long-term or in other tax beneficial ways.*** *More information is further explained in a flier from a Christian owned financial advisor with which we partner: Ambassador Advisors.*

What do Matching Campaign funds help support? Our goal is to keep tuition at a level the average income in our area can afford. To accomplish this goal, Matching Campaign funds support our general fund. We know that the details of insurance, gas and electric bills are not exciting, but funding for them is necessary for the school to operate. The Finance Committee (a subcommittee of the school Board of Trustees) works hard to keep costs down, finding quality services at a good price. We pray and strive to be good stewards of what God has given us. Still, inflation is nibbling away more and more of our budget, and the NYS minimum wage is rising rapidly.

We encourage you to give towards this matching campaign to help us meet our goal for 2023. Additionally, **we want to let you know that contributions made above our matched goal go straight to Phase II of our capital campaign.** For more on that, be sure to check-out the other side of this letter!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 2

Since last year's letter, we have completed Phase 1 of our Capital Campaign—a 5,200sqft addition with driveway and parking expansion! The additional classrooms and restrooms have been very beneficial. They have allowed us to grow the student count and to give teachers much needed space. The longer bus-loop with dedicated handicap parking and a sidewalk to the neighboring church has helped improve parking and safety during events at the school. While Matching Campaign funds continue to be separate from Capital Campaign fundraising, the prior additions have been completely paid for! **We give Praise to God for providing donors like you to make that possible.**

However, such a fast rate of growth for our school is continuing to provide new opportunities and challenges. Our families have picked up their metaphorical swords and trowels to continue diligently building up our side of the wall so we can continue the work God has given us. Here is what we have planned for Phase 2 of the Capital Campaign to solve the current challenges:

Challenge #1 - For many years we have had combined grade levels to serve our community most effectively. With increased enrollment, we have eliminated that method and only two classrooms are still combined: Grades 1&2 and Grades 3&4. As enrollment grows, we need more classroom spaces.

Need #1: Minimally, two new classrooms in 2023.

Challenge #2 - With increased enrollment come more families, grandparents and loved ones during concerts and performances. Our gym is getting crowded. We need more floorspace and better viewing of our beloved students as they demonstrate the gifts God has given them and the diligence in their work. Additionally, the tables, chairs, and other items that are slowly filling the gym are creating potential safety hazards.

Need #2: An addition to the gym designed for future use as a stage. This would provide the pre-planned space, already built in phase 1, to be transformed into it's final stage: Two classrooms.

Challenge #3 – Our small, outdated kitchen is being stretched beyond its capacity to prepare and serve our growing population. Not only that, our dear volunteers are bringing food, dishes, and other items back and forth down the hallway.

Need #3 A kitchen sufficient for larger populations of students, teachers and volunteers with access to the gym and easier access to an external door.

God has already provided \$102,000 dollars towards this effort since we announced Phase 2 at the Harvest Festival. This amount is just under 25% of what we need to complete the projects and 50% of what we need to begin. We're eager to keep building as God makes available the resources!

May God bless you, and bless your continued support.
For HIS Kingdom,

EPCS Finance Committee