

Libertas Christian School partners with parents to educate & disciple children consistent with a Biblical worldview, teaching them to be lifelong learners, able to discern, articulate, & defend truth in a compelling, winsome, Christ-like manner.

July 13, 2020

Dear Libertas Family,

As our mission statement above states clearly, it is our responsibility (and honor) to come alongside our parents to partner with them in bringing up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We have communicated already our intention to open Libertas for school as normal but we want to share some further information with you in the following letter. On July 7th members of the Libertas Christian School administration and Board met with the leadership of several West Michigan Christian schools along with two Board members from the Michigan Association of Christian Schools (MACS), which Libertas has officially joined for several reasons/benefits, including legal representation as needed. At this meeting, the different school administrators shared their varying intentions regarding how they will open up (to what degree they will comply with the Governor's roadmap) but when asked what Libertas' plan was, I shared that our intention is to not comply any further than we already are (see below regarding our standards of cleanliness) and that we intend to use this as an opportunity to teach our children, consistent with a Biblical worldview, how to discern, articulate and defend truth in a compelling, winsome and Christ-like manner (see school mission at top). The State has actually given us a wonderful opportunity to have a very "teachable moment" with our students and we intend to not miss this opportunity. They have juxtaposed a LIE vs. the TRUTH. Lies deceive and enslave, truth sets people free. The LIE the State wants to teach them: When we face something dangerous in life which we cannot see, cannot control, and which could cause us to fear, where do we turn? Answer: we turn to the government and trust them to tell us how to face our fears. And then of course, they tell us trust in the mask, trust in the "social distancing" to keep us 6 ft. away from other (dangerous) people, and wait for us to produce the ultimate rescue: a Vaccine. Thus, we, the government, will save you!

It is in our intention, conviction and responsibility to you as parents with whom we partner, to instead teach our students the TRUTH: When we face something in life in this fallen, dangerous, broken, disease filled world, which we cannot see, can't control, and which could cause us to fear, where do we turn? Answer: We turn to the LORD and His kind Providence, understanding that His Word is ever true, and His promises never fail. Another TRUTH: we can social distance and wear masks, cough into our elbows, and have group handwashing sessions every 2 hours, but we will still not add a single heartbeat to God's ordained span for our lives. So help us God, this is the truth our students (your children) at Libertas Christian School will be taught.

What does God's Word say to us about this? Consider the following:

Ps. 91:1-6: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

3 Surely he will save you  
from the fowler's snare  
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

5 You will not fear the terror of night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you..."

Matt. 6:25-34: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?  
26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet, I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

One of the outcomes of the July 7th meeting is that Libertas will not be standing alone but will now be linking arms with a coalition of Christian schools from West Michigan and around the state in respectfully declining participation in the protocols outlined in Governor Whitmer's Return to School Roadmap. Additionally, the representatives from MACS had stated previously and again very clearly at this meeting that we (Libertas) should act on our convictions and that they (MACS) are standing at the ready to support us, and that we should not be concerned.

In anticipation of sincere concerns regarding Romans 13 and a Christian's response to "governing authorities", it is our position that Governor Whitmer, and indeed, all elected civil servants in America are, as John Calvin explained, "lesser magistrates" who are, by definition, subject to a higher authority. In America, by God's grace, this higher authority is the United States Constitution and in Michigan, the state constitution. Our liberties, including the liberty to educate our children as we are convicted, are not given to us by the state (and therefore cannot be



taken away legally by the State) but rather by God and the state is mandated by God, and our constitutions, to protect (guard) those liberties. When they fail to do so, they are disobeying the authorities to which they are subject and God, and we not only have the right but the responsibility to resist.

Therefore, Libertas Christian School can, with a good and clear conscience towards the Apostle Paul's Roman's 13 instructions regarding governing authorities, take this stand alongside our parents and like-minded schools. As a private, Christian school, a ministry accepting no federal, state or local funds, educating Libertas students under Christian, Biblical convictions, we are under the protection of the United States Constitution to "freely exercise" our right to educate our children in the "nurture and admonition (Paideia) of the LORD."

However, this decision to respectfully decline participation in the Governor's roadmap does not that mean Libertas Christian School will be negligent in promoting and maintaining high standards for cleanliness and sanitation or that we will not be proactive in serving students, faculty and staff that present with fevers or other symptoms of illness at school. Libertas has always and will continue to have hand sanitizer in each room and public areas of the school. Handwashing protocols are reinforced throughout the school day, and we have always had Clorox wipes in every room. Every classroom has plastic gloves for emergencies in assisting ill students. Every year during in-service week, our faculty and staff undergo training in health protocols applicable to the classroom. If a student spikes a temperature they are sent to the office and are isolated from the general school population and parents come to retrieve their child right away. If a COVID-19 diagnosis occurs, that individual will follow the 14-day quarantine requirements, and Libertas will deliver an online option for schooling, suitable both to the needs of the student and to our abilities to render such services. Also, the Libertas building will undergo a professional electrostatic disinfection throughout prior to classes starting on Tuesday, September 8th. Having said that, we understand that we live in a world with viruses, and that our immune systems need to be exposed to things or we run the risk of more serious health issues, but we also understand that the Lord has given us minds to make wise decisions and that cleanliness is always a good idea, so long as it is not seen as the thing that can or will save us.

Interestingly, Libertas is uniquely positioned for holding classes in a "COVID19 world" in that we have a smaller student body compared to larger public or private schools, our classrooms are well ventilated and our classes average 20 per room (classrooms are full at 24 students). Even more interesting, is that we have a homeschool partnership, where some students only attend three days a week instead of the full five. These are elements that many states, including Michigan are recommending schools follow, and we already have them in place.

Libertas does not exist to be a convenient option or a mere educational preference. We exist because, as already stated above, we have a calling and a conviction to partner with parents to educate their children in the Paideia of God, understanding that this is a Biblical mandate (Deut. 6:6-8, Eph. 6:4).

Finally, it is important to communicate that all of the meetings, discussions and decisions to get to this point have been bathed in prayer with a sincere desire for the Spirit's guidance and for the Lord to be glorified. The school Board has entrusted the decision making to the administration

but has been very involved at a high level in making sure we are honoring the Lord and staying true to our mission. Please know that these men love the Lord, love the ministry of Libertas, love you and your children and want to see God receive all the glory in our journey forward. The Board would like to ask you to please join us in praying for Libertas and the opening of the school. This could be a situation like Jehoshaphat facing the million-man army - when he marched out to fight, God has already wiped out the enemy. Meaning we could do all we can to prepare for a fight and not end up having to actually fight because God clears away the resistance before us and all we have to do is spend 3 days collecting the spoils. But there is the real possibility we are in for a fight and while we trust the Lord with this, we still want to do all we can to be prepared. In the book Principles of War by Jim Wilson, he says this:

“In the Gulf war over Kuwait, there were six weeks of air bombardment and one hundred hours of ground attack. The coalition forces suffered very few casualties. I would like to compare the six weeks of air bombardment to concentrated prayer in that I can touch the enemy but he cannot touch me.”

This concentrated prayer softens up the objective so that when we have to start fighting on the ground, we meet little or at least less resistance. The Board and administration would like to ask you to join us in these coming weeks in doing “bombing runs” on the enemy. Let’s overwhelm the enemy with prayer in the weeks leading up to starting school. Pray for our Governor and legislature whose hearts are “like a stream of water in the hand of the Lord” Proverbs 21:1. Pray for our enemies to be “caught in the schemes that they have devised” Ps 10:2. Will you load your bomber as individuals and families each morning and evening and help us pound the enemy from above?

These are exciting days in which we have a real opportunity to show our children how to exercise the courage of our faith and convictions regarding our sincerely held beliefs and to learn what it really means to “obey God rather than men”.

Looking forward to what the Lord has for us in the coming school year.

See you in September!

For Him!

Bob Davis  
Headmaster  
Libertas Christian School