

## Historical Background & Ministry

West Hills Christian School was organized in 1949 by six families who had been transporting their children to Portland Christian School in southeast Portland. After two years of long-distance commuting to Portland Christian School, these six families decided that it was time to start a school of their own on the west side of Portland.

Our beginnings were small: twenty-one students in grades one through six and Mrs. Mabel Langhough, our first teacher/principal. She remained with the school for several years.

The school's original location was the basement of Hillcrest Bible Chapel. It was later moved to two other church basement locations before the present property was purchased in 1955. The first permanent building was erected in 1957.

The campus is housed on approximately five acres of prime residential land in southwest Portland just five minutes from downtown Portland. The main building is a two-story concrete and frame structure with an attached gymnasium. In 1997 the Board of Directors developed a long range plan to improve and expand the school's facilities. A two-story, twelve classroom wing was completed in 1999. In the summer of 2006, the school completed another educational wing and gym, as well as a library media center.

The families and staff of West Hills Christian School desire to serve the Lord by providing quality Christian education and training to children in conformity with the Bible. By God's grace and through the power of His Spirit, West Hills Christian School endeavors to provide each of its students with: a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through a personal relationship with Him, a firm foundation in Biblical principles, a desire to live in conformity with God's Word and to impact the world for Christ, and a superior preparation for secondary school, college, and a career.

The current enrollment of over 400 students includes classes in grades kindergarten through eighth. Our staff is comprised

of eighteen classroom teachers, two physical education teachers, a music teacher, computer science teacher, science lab teacher, librarian, special academic services instructors, tutors and a band director. Our administrative staff includes the superintendent, junior high principal, administrative services director, office manager, financial manager, financial assistant / office support, admissions coordinator, development director, nurse and maintenance staff. Parents are very active as volunteers.

West Hills Christian School is accredited through the Association of Christian Schools International and Northwest Association of Accredited Schools.

The academic program includes competition with up to fifteen other schools in the disciplines of math, spelling, writing/illustrating, geography, and science. The sports program provides competition with other schools in volleyball, basketball, and track.

Following West Hills Christian School graduates as they move through high school, college, and into adult life reveals alumni represented in a variety of professions: foreign and home missions, legal, business, medical, science, industry, armed forces, and many more.

Our goal is to keep tuition affordable so that family income will not present a major obstacle when making an enrollment decision. Another goal is to hire the best teachers possible and compensate them appropriately. By God's grace and goodness, we will continue to do so.

We strive to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to West Hills Christian School. The Lord has enabled us to pay off two mortgages. We are reviewed annually by an independent accounting firm to ensure financial accountability.

Presently, we are not included on any church budget. Our support comes from tuition and gifts from friends of West Hills Christian School. We desire to be an extension of the local churches, the home, and to be an encouragement to parents.

*Building God's Children Since 1949*