

Dear JH/HS Families,

We hope this email finds you doing well and having a great start to the 2023-24 school year. We are excited and encouraged by the many stories we have heard of students' thriving in one way or another. We are also grateful for the many opportunities we have, and the variety of ways in which they come, to help our students become discerning leaders.

The Situation at Hand:

Every day our students, and we as a community, are given opportunities to discern how we will respond to critical social and spiritual matters that confront us. One topic that is being discussed is the question of whether Cascade Christian will compete in athletic events against a team with a transgender individual on it. [The statement](#) by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) regarding gender identity participation is as follows: "Athletes will participate in programs consistent with their gender identity or the gender most consistently expressed." According to the WIAA, "Gender identity refers to a person's innate sense of their own gender."

What We Believe:

Our commitment to live according to the truth of Scripture remains as strong as ever and is a matter that our CCS Leaders Team and CCS Board of Trustees are fully united on. One particular passage that guides us in how we live out truth is Genesis 1:27, which states that we have been created in the image of God as male and female. We continue to [align with and teach that biblical principle as truth](#). Another passage that guides us as an administrative team is Mark 12:30-31 (NIV): "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

What We Have Done:

- The CCS Leaders Team and CCS Board of Trustees have for many months been giving prayer, conversation, and consideration to the question of competing or not competing. It is a multifaceted matter with many elements that require some level of ongoing consideration. While we continue to pray over and process this matter, we remain committed to doing so according to biblical truth. We have not yet, at the time of a contest, knowingly faced a team with a transgender member.
- We have sought input from the pastoral leadership of multiple local churches attended by a significant number of CCS families and have received support and affirmation from the majority of them regarding our current approach.
- We have had conversation with multiple Christian schools in the area who are taking a similar approach to the matter.
- We have received affirmation from ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International), our accreditation association, for the approach we are currently taking.
- We have written a letter to the WIAA stating our disagreement with their gender identity in athletics statement and have asked them to reconsider current policies and positions on the matter.

Our Current Approach:

We will extend a respectful, Christ-honoring response to those who hold a differing view of their own biological sex (Mark 12:28-31). In this moment, should the matter of gender identity be a factor in a WIAA-sanctioned event, we would continue to participate while maintaining a position of respectful disagreement, as long as the physical safety of our athletes is not a concern. As always, the safety of our students is paramount to us in all circumstances. For that reason, if there were ever a situation in which the physical safety of our athletes would be in question should we allow them to compete, we would decide not to compete. Also, should we experience a situation with an unfair competitive advantage, we would consider additional steps.

The role of the school in this realm is secondary to the role of the parents. Therefore, if an individual athlete or family chooses to not participate for any reason, we will honor and respect that decision.

Your prayers and words of support and encouragement are greatly valued and appreciated, as are you. Thank you for partnering with us in all aspects of developing discerning leaders in a culture where people are known and valued.

In His service,

Junior High and High School Administrative Team

