



Our Story – History and Overview

Through an inspiring step of faith, Evansville Christian School was founded in 1975 by Bethel Temple Community Church as a non-denominational, Christian school. The school began with 143 students in K-6th grade. ECS received State Accreditation in its 2nd year. In 1990, ECS was incorporated as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation with an independent board of directors. In 1999, the school's leadership took another step of faith with the addition of a second campus at Christian Fellowship Church on Millersburg Road, called the North Campus.

In 2011/2012, ECS' PK-8th grade enrollment was approximately 600 students from throughout the tri-state area including Evansville, Newburgh, Boonville, McCutchanville, and Henderson, Ky. The original Lincoln Avenue location, called the East Campus, is home to more than 500 students in PK-8th grade. The North Campus is home to 60 students in K-2nd grade. Our third campus, in partnership with First Baptist Church, opened in 2009 serving Henderson, KY. Our fourth campus, in partnership with First Christian Church – Newburgh, opened in 2010.

Our North, Newburgh, Henderson, and West (eventually) campuses are designed to grow to K-2nd grade over time. Today, ECS is a multi-campus school system serving the tri-state area.

With the Bible as its foundation, ECS' mission has always been to provide an exemplary, Christ-centered education and equip students to impact the world for Christ. In partnership with parents, pastors, and the community, ECS inspires students to excel academically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, thus building the next generation of leaders. Over the years, ECS has experienced significant growth in its curriculum, programs/services, athletics, student outcomes, and enrollment.

ECS is fully accredited by the State of Indiana, AdvancED (formerly the North Central Association), and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). ECS' faculty, with 50+ teachers, has an average of ten years experience and approximately 45% have master's degrees. The teachers meet all state educational requirements and maintain their state and ACSI licenses. ECS' ISTEP scores consistently rank among the top 5% of all schools in the State and the school is "A"/*Exemplary* rated (highest category) by the Indiana Department of Education. Further, in accord with the new Indiana Growth Model, ECS is considered "high achievement/high growth" by the IDOE.

ECS' vision is to honor and glorify God by working with parents and pastors to inspire students to reach their unique, God-given potential and to become *Evansville's* Christian school. The creation of a multi-campus system, development of soccer fields at Crossroads Christian Church, and initiation of a tuition assistance program have all helped ECS reach toward its vision and be considered a viable option for more families. ECS also participates in Indiana's School Choice/voucher programs.

After a great deal of prayer, planning, and counsel, the School Board outlined a multi-phased plan to expand ECS' current campuses and develop additional campuses, including a potential high school. The first phase, completed in May 2007, was a \$1.7 million project to expand and renovate the East Campus. This milestone project was ECS' first capital campaign/construction project and is helping meet the needs of ECS' growing student body, strengthen its areas of excellence, create a more identifiable school presence, and further expand God's kingdom.

ECS is governed by a self-perpetuating board of directors, including parents, educators, pastors, and community leaders. The 20-member board, with supporting committees, is responsible for the overall direction of the school and makes policy decisions. Day-to-day operations are the responsibility of the Executive Director working with the principals and leadership team.

ECS' curriculum is aligned with and exceeds Indiana Academic Standards, including the new Common Core Standards, integrated with Biblical principles. Woven into the fabric of its curriculum is a solid focus on helping children develop the skills, knowledge, and values that will enable them to excel in life. In addition to traditional courses, ECS' curriculum includes Bible, Student Leadership Institute, phonics-based reading, Daily 5/Café literacy, Accelerated Reading, inquiry-based science, computer, music, band, art, media/library, physical education, drama, speech/debate, and Spanish.

Technology is an integral part of ECS' educational program and is used to facilitate communication between school and home. ECS has over 15,000 books/resources in the Media Center and over 200+ computers in its classrooms and multiple labs. The school offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, including choir, various ensembles, Spell Bowl, student leadership team, and numerous after-school clubs (drama, science, Spanish, art, and chess). Regarding sports, students may participate in soccer, basketball, volleyball, cross-country, tennis, track, cheerleading, and wrestling. More than 80% of our 5th-8th grade students participate in athletics.

ECS' average class size (less than 18 students) and student-teacher ratio (13 to 1) are both significantly below the state average, giving students the individual attention they need. The school has an active Parent-Teacher Fellowship (PTF), which involves parents in the school and encourages fellowship among parents, students, and staff.

The school is committed to partnering with local churches for facility use and cultivating relationships with local churches and preschools. More than 75 different churches are represented in our student body and many students do not have a church home.

By sharing space with church partners, ECS is able to keep tuition at an affordable level. The school's cost per student is less than one-half of the cost per student in Indiana's public schools.

ECS also operates an activity-based summer camp program (K-8) and a summer Ready-for-Reading program, at several locations, for students entering Kindergarten. Both are open to the public.

As students and families from various churches interact at ECS, e.g. through the School Board, PTF events, athletics, etc., the school serves as a unifying ministry. Further, as ECS has grown and been blessed, the school strives to be a leader in education. ECS' partnership with a school in Afghanistan is an example and helps the students develop a Biblical worldview and a heart for missions.

Through the years, many parents, teachers, pastors, and community leaders have helped lay the foundation for the school. As ECS has sought the Lord's will for the school, He has blessed our efforts and we give Him all the honor and glory. Thousands of students have attended ECS and are now making an impact on their families, friends, churches, co-workers, employers, and the community. ***Evansville Christian School is equipping leaders for the next generation.***

They will soar on wings as eagles. – Isaiah 40:31