

CCCS 2020-2021 Letter of Introduction (Steve Hall)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am excited about our new school year at Cross Creek Christian School! 2020-2021 is my fourth year to serve as a teacher and as chaplain at Cross Creek. I sincerely appreciate your prayer support!

Because of the COVID19 crisis, my classes, at least to begin the year, will meet in a bit of an unusual way. More on that later in this letter.

Personal Background Information

Here's a bit of information to help you get to know me better.

I am married to Vickie Hall, who is a Pharmacy Tech Compounding Specialist at Little Drug in Sweetwater. We have six living sons and one son who has gone to be with the Lord. We have 14 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. All are wonderful blessings from the Lord! There's never a dull moment!

Vickie and I are both strongly committed followers of our Lord Jesus Christ and have been members of Sevier Heights Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN since 2008. We have served as altar counselors and I teach an adult Bible study class on Sunday morning. These Bible studies are recorded and posted as podcasts. Many of my Bible studies are also available as YouTube videos. If you wish, you can watch or listen to them on our web pages at aboundingjoy.com or on YouTube or through your preferred podcast app. The podcast is called, "Growing Strong in Christ."

I was raised in Tellico Plains, Tennessee. My grandparents led me to the Lord when I was ten years old. In 1967 I graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a Liberal Arts Physics major, plus a very strong minor (almost a double major) in math. From 1967-1970, I taught at Tellico Plains High School and at McMinn Central High School (mainly algebra and physics). I received a Master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1973, after which I spent 14 years in full-time Christian ministry in churches in Tennessee, Florida, and Texas (as Minister of Education, Associate Pastor, and Senior Pastor). I have a total of 25 years of high school teaching experience in both Texas and Tennessee. I retired in 2014 after 15 successful years of teaching at Tellico Plains High School from 1999 to 2014. I taught various math courses there, including Algebra 2 and precalculus, as well as Physics and ACT Prep. Twice (2005 and 2012) I was honored to receive the Monroe County High School Teacher of the Year award from the Little Tennessee Valley Educational Cooperative. Also, from 1994-1998, I joined my wife, Vickie's midwifery practice in Dallas, Texas, where, during the 1980s and 90s, she delivered hundreds of babies and served as president of the North Texas Midwives Association. I served as her business administrator until we moved from Texas to Tennessee in January, 1999..

In 2006, out of a burden for the large number of high school graduates who were dropping out of church, I founded a new Christian club at Tellico Plains High School called the Veritas Club. It is essentially an introduction to Christian apologetics. It has been a highly successful club at TPHS. When I retired, a fellow math teacher agreed to sponsor the club. If other high schools or middle schools wish to try having Christian apologetics clubs, I would be delighted to help get them started. Also, at this point I have eight Veritas apologetics presentations that I have presented in several churches in Monroe County, at SHBC, and at a few summer youth retreats. You can learn more about Veritas by going to our web site at aboundingjoy.com. You may also wish to watch some of the Veritas YouTube videos. There are links to our YouTube videos at aboundingjoy.com, or go to YouTube and search "Steve Hall Veritas Series." You will also find links to playlists of videos Vickie and I have uploaded especially for our grandchildren that you might find useful for the spiritual growth of your own children and grandchildren.

COVID19 Adjustments

As I write this, I am scheduled to be teaching New Testament, ACT Prep, 7th Grade Math, Dave Ramsey's Personal Finance course, and possibly our Veritas course at CCCS this year (2020-2021).

Because of Vickie's and my ages, and because of a personal history of respiratory issues for both of us, we have decided, in consultation with our principal, Melissa Whitfield, that, at least for the beginning of the year, it will be wisest for me to conduct classes online.

Here is how it will work. Students will go to my classroom at class time, in the same way that they attend all their other classes. I will connect with students in the classroom at CCCS using the Zoom app over the internet. A projector will allow students to see and hear me explain the material. I have a whiteboard at home which students will be able to see as well. I also use PowerPoint slides in all my classes, and students will be able to see them and hear me discuss them the same as if I were in the room personally. There will be a proctor in each class, who will take roll, make sure the video is working properly, get my attention if students have questions, take up papers, administer tests, etc. Students will be able to ask questions and/or make comments at any time during the class period, just the same as they would if I were physically present in the classroom.

Students who need to talk with me personally will be able to let the proctor know so that a personal phone call or zoom meeting can be set up for me to answer questions, give additional help, etc.

An additional advantage of this kind of remote teaching is that video recordings of all my classes will be available on YouTube. That will make it possible for students to watch class meetings a second time for clarity if needed.

We are hoping and praying that this arrangement will be temporary. We will constantly monitor news and COVID19 updates as we reevaluate our situation.

If your son or daughter is taking one or more of my classes, I look forward to getting to know both you and your child. I also pray that, together, we will be able to give him/her every opportunity to become as well prepared as possible for the next step that God has for him/her.

As chaplain, I have shared several chapel messages at Cross Creek over the past three years. There is a [link to these messages on](#) my personal website, aboundingjoy.com.

If we need to communicate, you may email, call or text me. My email is steve@aboundingjoy.com or mr.hall@crosscreekschool.org. My cell phone is (423) 261-5562. If you like, we can also have person-to-person zoom meetings as well. Just let me know.

Evaluation Procedure

Each student will be evaluated as follows. Percentages are approximate and may vary. I will notify you of any changes.

Tests	80% of classroom grade
Assignments	20% of classroom grade

Class Rules

1. **Respect and be polite to all people.** (Listen carefully. Do not interrupt the teacher or other students. Do not use the names of "God" or "Jesus" carelessly. Rudeness and disrespectful language will not be tolerated.)
2. **Respect the property of others.** (Put litter in the trash can. Return borrowed items. Do not write on desks, walls, etc.)
3. **Bring all needed materials to class every day** (pencil, paper, text, assignments).

4. **Use the restroom before coming to class.** "Emergency" restroom passes will be given if necessary, but unless there are unusual problems, students should be able to make it through class.
5. **Exercise self-control at all times.** Crude and offensive language will not be tolerated. Keep hands and feet to yourself. No items (e.g. pencils, paper wads, etc.) are to be thrown or tossed inside the classroom. Tone and volume of voice will be controlled at all times.
6. **Obey all school-wide rules.** e.g., dress codes, cell phone policy, etc.

Classroom Discipline

Normally, I expect few, if any, classroom discipline issues. If necessary, the proctor or I will ask to talk privately with a student just outside the classroom door. Occasionally, we may see the need for an office referral. Parents and guardians will be notified if there are any issues.

Assignments, Late Work, and Missed Tests

I will provide [URL links for assignments for all subjects](#). Student progress and missing assignments or tests are easily found at ccgrade.com. Students are expected to complete assignments in an up-to-date and timely manner. However, knowing the uncertainties of life, late work will be accepted with an appropriate parental explanation at any time during the quarter. Late work will not be accepted after the conclusion of the quarter (9-weeks period). **I expect parents to check all assignments carefully for accuracy and understanding. Please initial or sign assignments in the upper right hand corner to indicate that you have checked them. I check only for completion.** Of course, in the event of any confusion or questions, I will be glad to provide clarification. In the event of student absences on test days, I will work with the student to find a prompt and appropriate time for a make-up. I, the proctor, or a designated CCCS staff member, will personally administer make-up tests.

Please make sure I have your name and cell-phone number. I will text you links to lesson plans and other relevant information. Please refer to online lesson plans frequently. I sometimes find the need to change them!

2020-21 Course Summaries

(Periods and times subject to change!)

Dave Ramsey Personal Finance (2nd Period 9:30-10:30)

This is Dave Ramsey's course on Foundations in Personal Finance for Homeschool. This course teaches students how to manage money wisely and make good financial decisions in life.

The course includes chapters on: Saving, Budgeting, Debt, Life after High School, Consumer Awareness, Bargain Shopping, Investing and Retirement, Insurance, Money and Relationships, Careers and Taxes, and Giving.

We'll be watching video presentations in class and discussing the material. Students will have to answer work-book questions about the material, complete activity hand-outs, and pass tests over each chapter.

TEXT: Foundations in Personal Finance Workbook

ACT Prep (3rd Period 10:30-11:30)

I have several years experience teaching ACT prep at Tellico Plains High School and here at CCCS. I teach all four of the ACT areas of testing: Math, Science, English, and Reading. The focus will be on math, since many students need more help with math topics. I'll teach students the best ways to tackle different kinds of ACT questions. Success in a course like this depends on how seriously students have taken their academic courses up until now. There's no magic formula that will guarantee a high ACT score, but if students take it seriously, this course will make a significant difference. Since classroom time is limited to 2 hours a week, I will not take classroom time to take practice ACT tests. Sample tests (both online and in ACT prep books) can be done at home. Classroom time will be used to teach strategies for success, best ways to tackle specific ACT test questions, and answering student questions. This is a

pass/fail course. Students who take the course seriously and engage in classroom participation will receive 100s (pass).

7th Grade Math (5th Period 1:00-2:00)

Our primary goal is to continue to lay a good foundation that will enable students to succeed in future pre-algebra, algebra, geometry, and advanced math courses. I will work many sample problems in class. Before tests, I will work problems that will be similar to test problems. Please make sure your student takes good notes and is able to explain these problems to you as they complete assignments and prepare for tests.

TEXT: SAXON Math Homeschool 8/7 with Prealgebra

New Testament (6th Period 2:00-3:00)

This is an overview of the New Testament. We will look at the contents of each of the New Testament books. The goal in this class is not just head knowledge, even though that is important. The goal will be to encourage students to a full commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ, to understand what God reveals about Himself, our Lord Jesus, how we can grow in knowledge of Him, and how we can learn to love Him more. We will pray for His wisdom and leadership. This class is not just about academic knowledge, it's about spiritual growth in Christ.

TEXT: Connecting with God--New Testament Survey Revised Edition

Veritas (7th Period 3:00-4:00) (*This class may not make*)

The goal of this class is to help students be able to obey 1 Peter 3:15 in the midst of a culture of secularism and unbelief. We will look at evidence that God has seen fit to give us for the resurrection of Jesus, evidence from archaeology, from fulfilled prophecy, from New Testament Manuscripts, and from early church history. We will also consider evidence for creation from molecular biology, the second law of thermodynamics, and the fine tuning of the universe. We will study some of the strange conclusions that many people reach about Jesus. We will also study some of the world-views and belief systems that overwhelm many Christian students--like secular humanism. We will deal with some of the tough questions often asked by secularists that students need to be able to handle. Such as:

How do you know that the Bible can be trusted?

How can you be so sure that Jesus really rose from the dead?

Why are you Christians so intolerant?

Don't you know that the Bible is full of errors, inaccuracies, and contradictions?

How can there be a good God with all the evil that is in the world?

How can you be so arrogant and unkind as to tell someone else that what they believe is wrong?

Don't you realize that all real scientists recognize evolution is an unquestioned fact?

Did you realize that the Bible is actually an evil book? It even advocates the slaughter of babies.

Why are you Christians so judgmental? Can't you recognize that the beliefs of other people are just as valid as yours?

Don't you realize that Christians have been responsible for most of the world's problems? Have you ever heard of the crusades? Or the witch trials? Or the inquisition? Or slavery?

My prayer is that all of us would grow stronger in our Lord Jesus Christ as we seek to bring Him great glory this year!

In Christ,
Steve Hall