

**The following are representative comments made this fall by current Calvin Christian School parents in response to a survey about the school's financial aid program. All quotes are used with permission.**

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**F**inancial aid makes it possible for our family to attend Calvin. We downsized our home and took on second jobs in order to give our children a Christian education, yet we still rely on financial aid...in this economy for us to be able to be at Calvin.

We have twins on the autism spectrum. Calvin has been able to meet their needs with Calvin's resource director and classroom paras as well as the academic challenge programs. Calvin believes that every child learns in their own way, and they appreciate and recognize my children for the God-given gifts and talents that they do have. We feel blessed every day for the staff and teachers at Calvin and for the knowledge and experience they have with children of many learning styles. That has been a unique gift to our family!

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**W**ithout financial, our children would not attend Calvin. I believe in Christian education and the school, its faculty and its mission. I love when my kids come home and are excited about something they learned. I love knowing that the children my kids have made friends with share similar beliefs. I love having faith in the teachers.

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**C**alvin...has become an extension of my family. The teachers care about my kids, and the friendship and support from families is wonderful. The last few years have been difficult for my kids and I, and we have been surrounded by a caring Christian family at Calvin.

**W**e could not go to Calvin without financial aid. With our medical issues this may not change soon. The aid allows us, a campus ministry family joyfully sacrificing to touch the university, to also give our children a quality Christian education.

We are drawn to Calvin by two things: the quality young people we know who have graduated from Calvin, and the approach to engaging culture. My son, in particular, needs a biblical worldview that will enable him to enter the sciences without a defensive posture, but positively equipped to address and challenge culture. Also, as a former homeschooling family, we realize it is difficult for a larger classroom to challenge students as deeply. But I think my children are being challenged academically, and are also learning the organizational and relational skills that a home school can lack. Thank you for Calvin!

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**T**he financial aid that Calvin provides allows us to send our children to a school that supports their spiritual and academic development. Calvin Christian has exceeded our expectations. We have seen our children be challenged to excel in all areas of academics. Most importantly our children are learning each day about the greatness of our God and his plan for our world. We know that each day our children are loved and cared for by teachers and staff who pray for them and desire to help our children to live their lives for Christ. This is such a blessing to our family.

**O**ur children would likely not be able to attend Calvin Christian School if financial aid was not provided. It is still quite an expense for us, but [financial aid] helps us tremendously.

The teachers at CCS are amazing—they are very perceptive to our individual children's needs, and they communicate with parents regularly and consistently—via email, notes sent home, at meetings, online, etc.

Calvin Christian School's priority on a quality education with a Christian worldview is right on. We know our kids are learning what they need to know (and then some!), with the benefit of that education being reinforced as God being the creator of all things!

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**W**e happily sacrifice many things so that our children can have a Christian education, but even with sacrifice alone, it is not enough. We are grateful that financial aid makes it possible for our children to attend Calvin Christian School—the rewards are immeasurable!

We initially chose Calvin Christian because it was close to our home, but have come to realize and appreciate the uniqueness of the experience Calvin offers. We love the integration of God and his Word in every aspect of education, the attention to spiritual maturity as well as all other areas of growth, and the attentiveness of the teachers and other staff to our children, not because they're paid to, but because through Christ they truly love our children.

**C**alvin Christian is such a blessing to our family! We love all the teachers, the principal and mostly that our kids are learning how to be followers of Christ every day at school!

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**C**alvin Christian is a one of the brightest spots in our family life. Every staff member teaches and guides with humility and passion, creating a Christ-centered environment on all levels. Our child has retained an excitement and innocence about learning that can only thrive in an environment that nurtures self-esteem and reconciliation in Christ. Calvin's high academic standards strongly appeal to us as we feel Christian education should be second to none; and though our child sometimes says school is hard work, it is still an enjoyable experience.

We feel confident each day as our child is escorted into school by a welcoming school superintendent or a friendly office administrator, knowing they are in good hands until they return home.

We are immensely grateful for the generous gifts of others that make this possible for us; and we strive to be good stewards of this gift by supporting our child and CCS in any way we can to produce a successful return on everyone's investment.

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**W**ithout the Christian school to back me up, I would be struggling to work night shift and try to home school with no sleep at all. I see this as the LORD'S... acting as a father to the fatherless. He brought me to a place within the body of Christ to help bear the load I would otherwise be carrying all by myself. I feel my sons' future has been changed for the better through Calvin.

**T**he Calvin community is one we have embraced and feel our child has excelled in, so having the financial aid available to us to help us support our Christian education goal is extremely important to us.

Calvin Christian is...a community of families with the same goal, raising children in a Christian environment. The staff of Calvin has been family to us since kindergarten. The curriculum and activities for our child are a perfect fit for our family.

We started out in kindergarten with financial stability, so we were able to pledge more than the Fair Share amount. First grade was the same and so on...until we hit the 4th grade and we were hit hard with financial hardship due to the economic downturn. The stress of wondering if we were going to be at CCS was overwhelming. We applied for aid and prayed. We are still at CCS and although we have had to use aid for two years now, we continue to pray and pledge to our fullest extent. We take our precious time at CCS year by year now. We love the CCS community and hope the aid is there for years to come so other families experiencing what we have can still send their child to CCS.

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**W**e would not be able to give our children a private Christian education unless financial aid was available! We love Calvin and can't imagine not having the Calvin family a part of our lives!

Calvin does a great job of helping all students, not just your average or above-average child. CCS meets the needs of students that need varied learning modalities as well as extra support and modification in the classroom. CCS also educates from a Biblical worldview that is so needed with today's generation.

**W**e have never needed financial aid until this past year. The economy hit our family extremely hard, and had it not been for the giving of others, we would not have been able to send our children to Calvin. Financial aid allowed us to continue our children's education at the school that they love.

Calvin Christian is an extension of our family. The teachers and staff truly love, pray for, and care about every child. Calvin is solid, biblical, faith-building, and God-honoring. We are truly blessed to be able to have our children in such a loving environment.

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**W**e are a one-parent, one-income family. I am doing my best to provide for my family, but it proves to be challenging. Christian education is extremely important to me and my kids. I know I would be unable to provide this type of education for my family without assistance, and yet it is so essential we can't imagine our lives without it.

I love how CCS brings God into every subject and every aspect of school. Being around like-minded students, parents and teachers who offer support and fellowship is wonderful. And the quality of education is priceless.

My children are young, and yet they understand and appreciate the value of attending CCS. They have been willing to sacrifice many things, including family vacations in order to attend. Recently, I suggested the option of moving to a different house so that they would not have to share their small bedroom together. My kids' reaction was, "We'd love our own rooms, but there's no way we want to move if it means we can't go to Calvin Christian School."

**O**ur children attended CCS-Blaine before we left for the mission field. After being gone for three years, it was very important for our children to be able to attend a school where they had some friends and were familiar with some of the students. Being able to receive the necessary financial aid allowed our children to reconnect with their friends and have an easier time transitioning back into this culture.

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**C**alvin has been so good for our kids—they have adjusted so well to the school and their teachers. It was so comforting to find this school when we moved up here. We are so thankful that they can attend this school!

As a Ph.D. student for the next two years, my husband receives only a small fraction of the income we were used to before he started this program. We have appreciated financial aid here at Calvin.

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**M**y children do not have a father involved in their lives and that makes them having a Christian education all the more important to me. I cannot fill the role of mom and dad, and having my kids able to go to a Christian school is a big area in which I know they will have other adults making a huge impact in their lives, not just in learning school subjects but spiritually and morally as well. Without financial aid it would be impossible for me to send my kids to CCS.

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**W**e have had kids enrolled at Calvin for ten years now. Calvin has helped our kids learn how to think critically about the world around them by offering a Christian worldview as a cornerstone to their education.

Last year if it had not been for the generous assistance of other Calvin families we would have had to leave the Calvin community. It meant a lot that our Calvin family was able to help us through our tough year.

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**W**e would not be able to send our daughter to Calvin Christian School if we were not able to get financial aid. CCS gives our daughter a wonderful Christian environment to learn in which is invaluable. It's great to know that she's learning with other kids whose parents have like values and also want to raise their children in a godly atmosphere. We appreciate this so much!

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**A**fter returning to the U.S. for graduate studies following 10 years in Central Asia, we were simply not in position to meet the full cost of enrolling our children at Calvin. The school...took into account our circumstances and worked with us to establish an attainable payment plan. We hope to one day be in a position to contribute in kind so that others in like circumstances will benefit from all that Calvin offers.

Calvin has been our partner in nurturing a God-centered, Christ-exalting worldview that is both biblically faithful and engaged with the needs and challenges of society. We can hardly emphasize enough how significant Calvin's commitment to these things has been in the overall development of our children. Thank you, Calvin!