

REGENTS ROAR

2022



**THE VALUE
OF A FIRM
FOUNDATION**



**PARENT
TESTIMONY WITH
LIONEL MATEN**



**MAC GIVES
BACK**

OUR MISSION

Regents School of Oxford exists to provide a classical, gospel-centered education to disciple our students to love, serve, and glorify God. We accomplish our mission through academics, athletics, and fine arts.



INFUSING
**CHRISTIAN
THEOLOGY**
IN ALL WE DO.



“
**I AM GRATEFUL
FOR THE
JOYFUL WORK
ENVIRONMENT
WE HAVE AT
THE SCHOOL**
”

DEAR REGENTS COMMUNITY,

Over the past five years the blessing of the Lord has been evident in the growth of our school. I am continually amazed at the way we have progressed and ultimately, I am grateful for the provision of the Lord. It is only by the provision of the Lord we are able to succeed, and we are humbled by the growth we have experienced within our ministry. Our gratefulness can be seen in many ways throughout the success of the school.

I am grateful for the way the faculty teach the gospel in all aspects of the school. It does not take long to see that our classes are gospel-centered throughout the buildings and our students are getting an in-depth training in discipleship. This type of education builds the Christian leaders needed for the future of our county, and I am excited to see how the Lord develops the next generation of leaders through Classical, Christian education.

I am grateful for the holistic development of our students as they are challenged each day spiritually, intellectually, morally, and physically providing for them a well-rounded experience of school. These opportunities to learn in the classroom are complimented by the competitive athletic program, the maturing fine arts program, and emerging elective programs we have developed for the students. This strong curricular and co-curricular program allows our students to have a vibrant school experience that provides a strong foundation for their future.

I am grateful for the joyful work environment we have at the school with other believers who have dedicated themselves to the calling of education. Honestly, the school is great place to work, and this joyful environment is felt by our students in the classroom. A quick walk through the halls and in the gym during the exchange of classes will reveal the laughter and joy experienced by our students throughout the day.

I am grateful for the growth in enrollment as the Lord has brought new families to our school. I'm honored by the number of new families that have joined our school over the past few years. This growth has allowed us to explore the expansion of our campus. Additionally, I am grateful for the provision of land for expansion and the growth of the capital campaign to complete the Upper School Building project. It is only through the growth in enrollment that we can move forward with the expansion of this educational ministry.

As we find success in these provisions by the Lord, it encourages all of us to remain in humble reliance on His continued blessing. This is indeed the Lord's school, and He will bless us as He sees fit. We must continue to serve the calling of Classical, Christian education and preach the gospel to these students each and every day.

**Blessings in Christ,
Jason W. Wood**
Head of School

THE VALUE OF A FIRM FOUNDATION

By Rebecca Bishop, 5K Teacher

“And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”
Matt. 7:25

Early Education sets the tone for a child’s entire academic career. No pressure, preschool teachers everywhere! It is the first taste a child has of structured learning, and Regents School of Oxford wants that taste to be a sweet one. Equally vital is that the foundation be a firm one.

More than ever our children are facing the rains, floods and winds of a world groaning to be set free from its bondage to corruption (Rom. 8:19-22). Regents Early Ed, on day one, begins instilling in a child the Christian, Biblical worldview and faith in our rock and redeemer, Jesus Christ, that will keep his or her house from falling. And we have a lot of fun in the process!

Our Early Ed teachers pray as a group each morning before school starts that the Holy Spirit will work through us for the benefit of our students, their families and each other. And our heavenly Father gives us that day our daily bread to be more than teachers: we are ministers of reconciliation; surrogate parents; preachers of the gospel; purveyors of truth, goodness and beauty; models of Christ; math and phonics instructors; rest time regulators; song leaders; storytellers; snack openers; soothers when knees get scraped; on-demand hug dispensers; recess referees; craft creators; temperature takers; bathroom monitors and more.

Armed with all the tools of our trade and with God as our guide, we encourage children to love school and become lifelong learners. We equip them with the academic skills they need to move forward. We partner with their parents and guardians by communicating effectively. We make sure they know that God loves them and we love them. Bottom line: in all areas of any given day we are shepherding the hearts and minds of these young image-bearers of God to love, serve, enjoy and glorify Him forever.

RSO Early Ed is a safe, joyful place children are excited to come to because they are loved, encouraged, challenged, and motivated. It’s a place where we set the bar high, and the children meet it in remarkable ways: like singing all 66 books of the Bible, reciting the Ten Commandments and Psalms 23 and 100, learning first grade math in kindergarten, reading, writing journal entries, and creating artwork in a variety of mediums.

We learn social skills on the playground, how to admit when we are wrong, to be diligent in all things, to obey right away, to respect authority and to esteem others. And we dance! We say the pledges. We grow plants. We make our own hot air balloon with a toaster oven and a garbage bag! We put on the most adorable Christmas pageant you have ever seen and the sweetest Mothers’ Tea imaginable. We even have our own t-shirts for denim days. We are family. We are individual members of the body of Christ. We are God’s regents on Earth until the King of kings returns.

When I bring my own four children to Regents every morning I have peace knowing they are exactly where God wants them to be during these formative, impressionable years. They are receiving a firm foundation that will serve them well for the rest of their lives no matter what rains, floods and winds may come.



GROWING UP AT REGENTS

By Hunt Edwards

Twelve short years ago, I walked into Regents School of Oxford for the first time. There were twelve people in my class, and I will graduate with four of them this spring. Regents has grown exponentially in my time here. We have doubled in size, but not only have we added students, we've added fine arts programs, athletic teams, faculty, staff, coaches, and more. This past year Regents purchased land to build an entire new campus. When I began first grade, Regents could hardly fill an athletic roster. Now, we have multiple District and State titles and have started numerous new sports. It's hard to wrap my mind around all the change and all that God has done for our school.

Looking back on the years I spent at Regents, I can honestly say it has been one of the best parts in my life and childhood. I wouldn't have attended any other school even if I had the choice. Regents has taught me to think more deeply about the world around me from music, to books and stories, to culture, and to faith. It has given me a deeper understanding of the Christian life and what that should look like in my own life.



One of the things I love most about my school is that the teachers really care about the students. They want the students to understand and really learn the material, not just pass a test. They care more about the growth of the student than a win or a test score. Regents prepares students for life beyond school. Building character and growing in your walk with Jesus are equally as important as academic success. I feel that in my time at Regents, I have learned so much more than just what was taught in the classroom. I have learned how to do hard things, how to persevere, and learned about virtues such as wisdom and courage. But the most important thing I feel I have learned at Regents School of Oxford is what it looks like to be a Christian man.

At the end of the day, we should love to learn about God's creation and that includes things in school like math, science, history, and writing, and I'm so thankful to have been given a solid academic foundation. But if I graduate from Regents without knowing how to solve every math problem in the world, not having read every book known to man, or if I can't remember every element on the periodic table, but I do know how to love Jesus, and bring others to him, I am alright with that.

The term "regent" means someone who is appointed by the king to watch over the people while the king is away. Regents School of Oxford has taught me to be a "regent" for Jesus until he returns...to love, serve, and glorify God through a Classical, Christian education. Who could ask for any more in a school? I hit the jackpot of schools, and I'm so thankful.

LIONEL MATEN PARENT TESTIMONY

As our son's junior year comes to a close, we welcome the opportunity to share this testimonial of our experience as parents at Regents School of Oxford by acknowledging that this could only be a blessing from God.

For the past year, a statement has defined our family: it's all God. This statement confirms that God wants us to be completely reliant upon him, which was the case in 2019. Rose was working on her Master's degree, and I was completing my doctorate. Kayla was entering intermediate school while Jayden was entertaining the joys and challenges that come with being a young teen. We asked God to help us find an environment to help him refocus and thrive. There are excellent schools in Oxford, but Jayden needed a smaller, more nurturing environment.



God answered our prayers in the most unexpected way. He ensured that Corrie Norphlet and Brandon Thompson would meet. Corrie was Jayden's basketball trainer, and Brandon was hired to assist with building the athletic program at Regents. Brandon informed Corrie that he was looking for kids with good character to try out for the program, and Corrie recommended Jayden. Hallelujah!

While I felt anxious about Jayden attending private school, we accepted the opportunity to tour the school. We met with Jill Bell and immediately Rose and Jayden were excited about enrolling. I remained undecided, as I had no idea what a classical, gospel-centered education was or how Jayden would react to learning in this new and rigorous academic environment. As is the case in my house, I had no choice but to agree, lol! Jayden was officially going to be a Regents student. When I look back at it, I wonder, was I stubborn and about to miss out on God's blessing? The answer is yes!

At the beginning of the fall, our hearts were joyful knowing that neither Jayden nor any student at Regents would be left behind. We witnessed how the faculty helped students excel in such a rigorous academic environment by meeting students where they were and

providing tools and strategies for meeting the challenges of the curriculum. We'd never known faculty willing to offer support before school, during lunch, and after school. Another Hallelujah!

God led us to Regents. The faculty, staff, and administration demonstrate Christ's love toward every student. Jayden has grown academically, and through a classical, gospel-centered education, we've seen growth in his character, faith, and how he treats others and himself. Regents has also affected our family. We've always felt welcomed with love and compassion, which was demonstrated when I suffered a back injury and couldn't attend Jayden's games. In addition to recording for her sons, Beth Paul ensured I could review the games, and we received messages from many families praying for my recovery. Words like "love" and "compassion" might seem difficult to comprehend in text, but once your child enrolls, you'll understand that God's love resonates throughout Regents!

Jayden and I discuss frequently about his plan to give back to Regents. In his mind, he has already built a new school and is working on another one. Our young teen who struggled to find his purpose in life now sees enrolling at Regents as God's blessing and wants to serve (please allow that to sink in for a moment). Isn't that the mission of education?

Regents has provided Jayden with a safe, healthy, and supportive environment. The environment fosters a culture of intellectual curiosity by developing the whole student, something Rose and I have spent a combined 50 plus years helping college students navigate. We feel blessed to be part of the students, faculty, administration, and families at Regents. Regents has become more than just a school, but a community united in spreading the love of Jesus Christ inside and outside the classroom.

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GOD LED US TO REGENTS. THE FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATION DEMONSTRATE CHRIST'S LOVE TOWARD EVERY STUDENT. JAYDEN HAS GROWN ACADEMICALLY, AND THROUGH A CLASSICAL, GOSPEL-CENTERED EDUCATION, WE'VE SEEN GROWTH IN HIS CHARACTER, FAITH, AND HOW HE TREATS OTHERS AND HIMSELF.

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TRUTH, GOODNESS, AND BEAUTY OF MATHEMATICS AT A CLASSICAL, CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

By Lori Bray

Teaching students truth, goodness and beauty is a cornerstone to Classical Christian Education. Mathematics teaches us objective truth in the universe. Within that truth we can see the character of God. God Himself has a numerical nature. He is one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The unity of God is declared in Deuteronomy 6:4 (“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, The Lord is one!”), while the plurality of God is seen in 2 Corinthians 13:14 (“The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”). God created all things, and His creation has distinguishable, countable particulars. As King David said, “O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all” (Ps. 104:24). These countable attributes of God provide the foundation for arithmetic. In arithmetic we can see objective truth. Two plus two will always be four.

Mathematics also demonstrates the goodness of God and His creation. Goodness is an object of the will. One has to choose to wonder. The goodness of mathematics has to begin from only having mathematical problems that have been solved. But then wonder and questions can grow out of the unsolved problems. Students need to be able to ask why and really wonder. In the operation of addition there is only one basic building block, the number one. However, in multiplication there is an infinite number of building blocks. Why? The goodness of mathematics really plays out at the logic level because the student starts to see when to ask the why and can then really wonder.

As students grasp the goodness of mathematics, they can then be led to see its beauty as well. One of the many beautiful things in mathematics is order. All of creation shows us how God is a God of order. Hebrews 1:3 states that God [upholds] “all things by the word of His power.” God’s order makes the universe operate in a regular, precise manner. The order of operations in mathematics is beautiful in that it allows everyone to arrive at the same answer. Numbers are beautiful; however, there are standards of beauty of mathematics. The beauty of numbers usually appears in its most simple form. Take for example five-tenths is a true and good statement referring to 5 out of the 10 students are girls. However, writing it as one-half is in its simplest form which is beautiful, based on being easier to operate. The beauty of mathematics really shines out at the rhetoric level where one can take all the truth and goodness and apply it to the beautiful.

Mathematics is true, good, and beautiful at a classical Christian school.



THE NECESSARY SKILLS

By Ethan Wood

Adulting is hard! Don't get me wrong, college is great! Independence is fantastic, the food less so. And the friendships I am building are incredible. I am learning how to prioritize my tasks, get enough sleep, and so much more. Above all else, my faith in God has grown in ways I did not expect. My first year of college has been an amazing experience, and I have Regents to thank for that.



My name is Ethan Wood, and I graduated from Regents School of Oxford in May 2021. I currently go to school at Dordt University. Here, I am studying Architectural Engineering which focuses on the mathematical side of architecture. I am doing a work study in Production Arts which runs the technology during chapel, music, or other college events. Additionally, I am on Theater Arts scholarship, and I am involved in an architecture club. I have also been able to lead a Bible study this semester. A few weeks ago, I submitted an application to become a Residential Assistant, and I got accepted for the role!

Without Regents, I don't think I could do all of the things that I am currently doing. For starters, Regents has taught me time management skills and task organization. Knowing how to structure my day and keep it organized has saved me from missing an assignment or two. This is a skill that most develop while in college, so I really appreciate Regents for helping me learn it early.

Second, for readers who do not know about Dordt, it is a liberal arts school with curriculum very similar to Regents. Many of my core classes reflect what I learned at

Regents helping me gain a more concrete and broad understanding of the material. I am currently taking a Biblical Foundations class which outlines the Bible as a whole, going through each book briefly. These classes have grown me in my understanding of God, His word, and my relationship with Him. It has been a fantastic opportunity.

Finally, Regents is very good about involving students in a mix of random extracurriculars. Having the confidence to try something new goes a long way at college. A good example is theater. I never knew how much I enjoyed theater until I left Regents. Now, I am very involved, and I am enjoying it tons!

For anyone reading this article, I want this message to stick: being prepared does not mean knowing everything already, it means having the necessary skills to learn and grow. Regents gave me those necessary skills. I loved my time at Regents, and I really appreciate the countless hours the school poured into me! Thank you!



WHY I COACH

By Bobby Epps

When I was 7 years old, my dad went to jail, leaving a single mom with two young boys. Faced with an overwhelming number of decisions, she made one decision that probably saved my life: she put a baseball glove on my hand.

For the next 11 years, I grew up with a wounded heart in the grass and clay of ballparks. During those years, I would spend many nights pleading with the Lord for a dad. At home I didn't have a model for what it meant to be a father or a husband, but when I looked down the third base line, I had an answer to my prayers. I had men who would push me to be the best baseball player I could be. In doing so, they showed me men work hard, and they don't settle for being average. They would teach me to be the best teammate I could be, teaching me how to love others enough to put them before myself. They taught me how to win and showed me how wanting what's best for me does not have to mean I want the worst for someone else. When we lost, I was taught how to deal with adversity. Probably most importantly, they showed me that just because one man had given up on me didn't mean all of them would.

Some say that sports are what teach you these things, but I am convinced they are just the fuel to the flame that is the coach. While playing baseball, I found the beauty of the diamond, but I also found the love in the men who coached on it. The love they showed me has instilled in me a deep reverence for the men who come alongside student athletes on the field or court, and they are the reason I take the job with such veneration. I know firsthand that in a world devastated by sin, coaches are given a unique opportunity in the lives of students.

The influence of their counsel.

The weight of their love.

The magnitude of their support.

There is no greater call.

My hope is that while Regents will be a home to those who have supportive and loving families, I also aspire for it to be a refuge for the students who need to be shown the love of Christ. My ambition is to help make this school a haven for kids like me who need a regent to show them that the King of Kings has not abandoned them, but instead delights in them. I want to be that regent. I want to be that coach.



BUILD

for the **Future**, our **Community** and His **Kingdom**

662.232.1945 | regentschoolofoxford.com/capital-campaign

OUR GOAL IS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF OUR UPPER SCHOOL AND NEW GYM WITHIN THE YEAR, ALLOWING OCCUPANCY OF THE NEW BUILDING IN FALL 2024.

By Dr. Beth Paul, RSO Development Director

Build (def.) – to construct by putting parts together, to make stronger, the style or form of a thing

At Regents, we are constantly building:

- Building up students who love God, serve others, treasure knowledge, cherish beauty and transform culture
 - Building excellent academic and cocurricular programs and experiences that promote whole child education
-

Today, Regents stands on a foundation of twenty-years providing classical Christian education. We prepare students for a world that longs to deconstruct their confidence in the truths of their Lord and Creator and their faith in His saving grace. We will continue to build on this foundation because of our passion for coming alongside Christian parents. The need in our world has never been more evident.

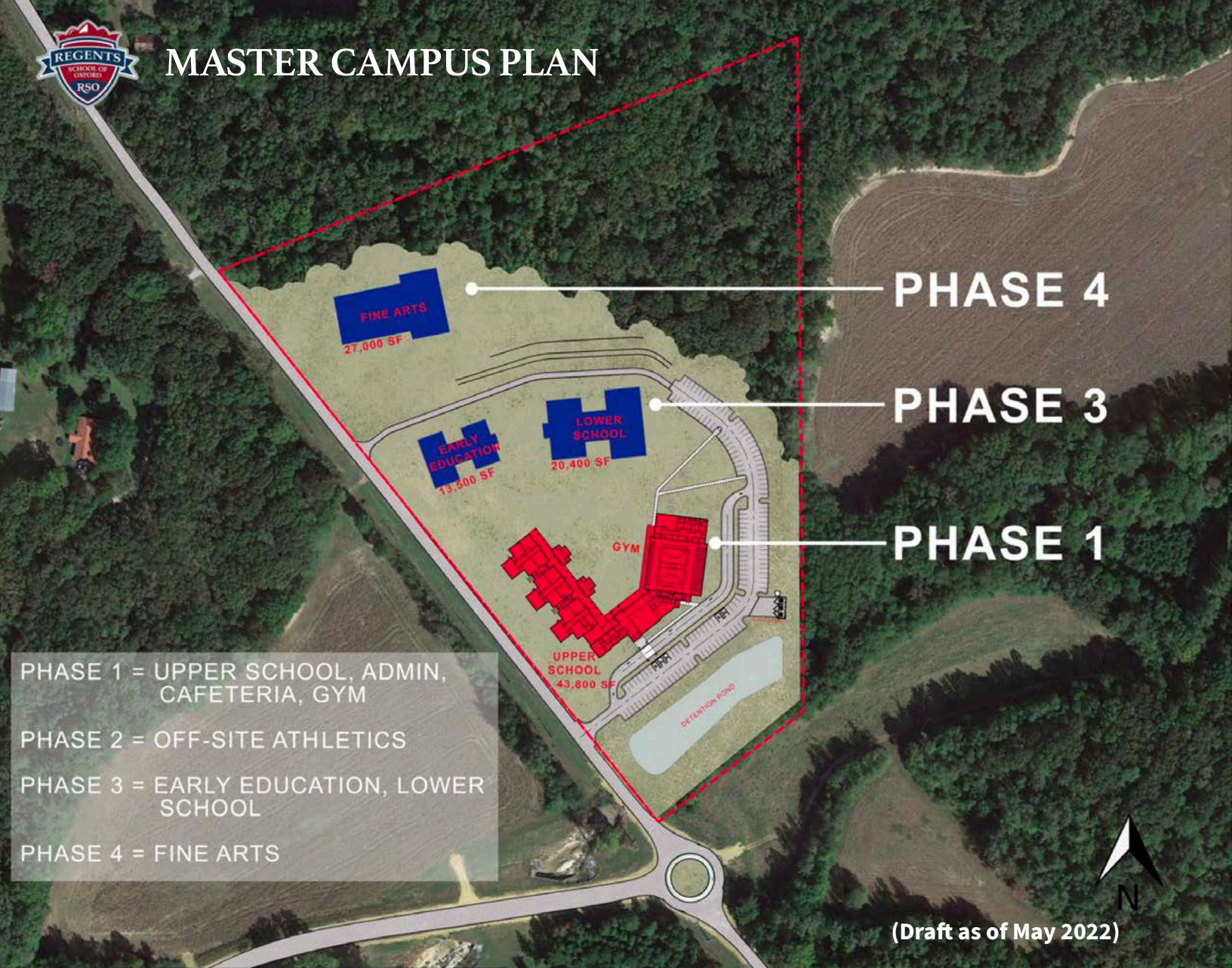
Last year we completed our acquisition of 18-acres. This is a major step toward creating a suitable physical home for our school, a place where our curriculum can flourish and our programs can thrive. We have shared that this new campus project will be a multi-phased, multi-million dollar initiative spanning many years. After a year of planning and prayer, the Board has set a goal to begin phase one construction (an upper school facility & new gym) within the year. This would allow occupancy by fall of 2024. A development team has been formed, and design planning is well underway. The BUILD Campaign seeks to raise the necessary funds to realize this phase one goal.

THE SILENT PHASE OF THE BUILD CAMPAIGN IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY FOR PHASE 1, AND WE ARE 40% TOWARD OUR GOAL OF \$6 MILLION.

We are now in the silent phase of the BUILD Campaign as we seek major donors to fund a large portion of the needed Phase 1 equity. We currently have commitments for 40% of our goal of \$6 million. Please pray with us for God's provision of prospective donors with the capacity to give, and for our Board and Capital Campaign Committee as they go about their work. The public phase of the Campaign will begin later this year, and we hope every RSO family will prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to this exciting project. There is no better way to invest in Christian discipleship!



MASTER CAMPUS PLAN



We are thankful to God for his provision. We pray for a ground swell of support from our LOU community as we yearn to raise up Godly spouses and parents, leaders and teachers, business and trade men and women who serve Him faithfully with excellence in this life. Thanks be to the Lord that the future is bright at Regents School of Oxford.

“WHEN BUILDING A SHIP, ONE DOES NOT BEGIN WITH GATHERING TIMBER AND CUTTING PLANKS, BUT RATHER BY AROUSING IN PEOPLE THE YEARNING FOR THE GREAT WIDE SEA.”

Antonine de Saint-Exupery,
French poet & pioneering aviator

MAC GIVES BACK

By Jill Bell

If you attended the Regents Talent Show in early March, you would have seen Mac Edwards and his two music students perform Tupelo Honey under the spotlight. Caroline Turner played the guitar, Case Turner played the piano, and Mac played the guitar alongside the two. "I've been doing music with the Turners for almost three years now. Case was my first student, and then Caroline started about a year ago with me," says Mac. "I love teaching, but while I'm teaching the kids, I'm also learning a lot in the process."

Regents Portrait of a Graduate is a student who loves God, serves others, treasures knowledge, cherishes beauty, and transforms culture. It's not hard to see that spending time with younger students, passing along knowledge, serving them, and setting an example is exactly what Mac is doing. What a clear and fun execution of Regents' mission!



"Caroline and Case make it easy to teach, and teaching what I love just increases the joy I get out of it. I got into music when I was six years old. I've been taking piano and guitar from Mr. Clint Jordan for ten years now. He gave me a love for music, and I can't really imagine my life without it. Because of my love for music, it's fun to see Caroline and Case 'get it' like I got it when I was their age. It's fun to watch them get an understanding of how much music gives back and will enable them to give back. They are both very talented, and I really do love teaching them a lot," says Mac.

Thank you, Mac, for giving back to your school and to the Turners. We are thankful for you, and we KNOW Caroline and Case are thankful too evidenced by their smiles after the talent show. Keep up the good work!

MEET THE TEAM



Jason Wood

Head of School



Matt Schroeder

Associate Head of School
Lower School Principal



Meredith Meurrier

Director of Early Education



Micah Messersmith

Upper School Principal



Jill Bell

Marketing and Admissions



Brandon Beckett

Athletic Director



Stacy Barnes

Upper school Administrative Assistant



Ashley Stearns

Lower School Administrative Assistant



Janet Prather

Director of Enrollment Management

REGENTS IS GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY

By Matt and Whitney McGraw

Oxford, Mississippi is special. I have been in the Real Estate business in this city for over 20 years, and from the beginning I was impressed with the reputation and of the quality of our local public education. Our public schools are a magnet to parents from all parts of Mississippi. Oxford has maintained an outstanding education system over the years, and it is still recognized as one of the best public education systems in the Mid-South.

During my 20 year career, I have also followed the progress of Oxford's Classical Christian school - Regents School of Oxford. I have heard from many of my clients who choose Regents and have expressed their satisfaction with the education their children were receiving.

Consequently, when my wife and I had children who were school age, we looked very closely at our educational options and realized that, as I had heard for years, Oxford is blessed with excellent public and private schools. Because we value a Christian focused education as well as the Classical approach, we chose Regents and could not be happier - not just with what they are learning but with the love of learning that we see in them.

From the perspective of a real estate agent, one who hears from families everyday, I can truly say Oxford is a great place to raise a family, and our fantastic school options are a big reason why.





THANKFULNESS

By Carla Cole, Board Chair

On behalf of the Regents School Board I want to say THANK YOU! When I look back on our year, my heart is flooded with the image of our Regents families graciously giving and serving. I am so thankful to be a part of a school that not only teaches the gospel but proclaims it through its actions.

During a recent meeting of the board with our capital campaign committee, architects and building advisors, I shared a devotional on the building of the Tabernacle. In Exodus God gave Moses specific instructions for the Tabernacle construction. Everything from how the people should contribute items or money to the very specific materials to be used, decorations, and even how the priestly garments should be made and worn was prescribed by the Lord. It is so easy to get bogged down in the details of the building of the Tabernacle as you read through these chapters, but we must remember that we serve a God of order and instruction: one who loves beauty and creativity. I was struck by many details after re-reading these chapters, but particularly that God didn't do it all alone. He totally could have built His own house. But He called His people: those that could give time and talents, those that could give monetarily, those who prayed, those who were skilled in art and design, and those who served with their hands and feet. In the end His house was built, but better yet His people had served together, grown together and brought glory to their God. It is yet another picture of how God uses His children to establish his will.

Regents is growing, and we are so thankful. My prayer is that we grow towards the Lord TOGETHER and that we are examples of that for our children. I pray that God would protect our school and bless us with graduates who love God, serve others, treasure knowledge, cherish beauty, and transform culture.



FINE ARTS

WE OFFER

- ✓ Upper School Choir
- ✓ Lower and Upper School Drama
- ✓ Lower School Spring Production
- ✓ Shakespeare in a Week Production
- ✓ Middle School Ukulele
- ✓ Art lessons K-12
- ✓ Fine Arts Night
- ✓ Praise Band
- ✓ Music History
- ✓ Art History







REGENTS

ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS WE OFFER

- ✓ Golf
- ✓ Tennis
- ✓ Lacrosse
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Baseball
- ✓ Swim
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Cheerleading
- ✓ Track
- ✓ Cross country
- ✓ Volleyball
- ✓ Girls Soccer

Athletics at Regents are aimed at more than short term winning. We are aimed at developing humble, confident men and women who grow up to be great employees, citizens, husbands, and wives.

We want our coaches to teach sound fundamentals and develop skills in each individual athlete, but more importantly, we want to point our athletes to Christ.

- Brandon Beckett, Athletic Director



Learn More At: RegentsSchoolofOxford.com



Regents School of Oxford
Gospel Centered, Classically Driven
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Serving grades 3K thru 12th