

# Calvary Christian School (CCS)

Columbus, GA

## CHURCH:

Calvary Baptist  
Church (CBC)

## YEAR STARTED:

1975

## CURRENT SIZE:

850 K3-12  
Students

## HISTORY:

CBC had an elderly congregation in 1975 when a new pastor recognized the need to bring in young families. What began as 13 students in K4 and K5 classes quickly grew to a full-fledged K3-12 school. The church closed the high school in the 1980s to protect sustainability, re-established it a few years later, graduated three students in 1992, and started growing again from there.

## MODEL:

CCS is an evangelistic school, so they accept Christian and non-Christian students alike. They make the mission clear so that families can understand what the school is about. CCS is a ministry of CBC and uses the church campus. The headmaster is an ordained pastor and member of the church staff; however, CCS and CBC are separate 501(c)3 entities with their own records and staff.

## KEY FACTOR FOR THE CHURCH:

If the school grows and draws in students from outside the church, it is important that the church is supportive of the school as its own entity. Ensuring there is a delineation of dollars, separate accounting, and checking accounts helps parents paying tuition know their money is for their child's education and not the church budget.

## NOTABLE:

About 90 percent of the CCS student body is not from CBC, so they prioritize the school board having non-CBC members to give a sense of belonging and responsibility to families who are not a part of CBC.

