

Lancaster Christian Academy (LCA)

Lancaster, SC

CHURCH:

Second Baptist
Church Lancaster

YEAR STARTED:

2021

CURRENT SIZE:

80 K-6 Students

HISTORY:

With attendance numbers down in the aftermath of COVID, the church had unused space and was looking to draw in people from the community. They quickly created and approved a school proposal, and LCA opened in August 2021 with five kindergartners and one teacher. The church began advertising and added a K-4 in the second year with 44 students and three teachers. LCA expanded to K-6 in 2023, accommodating about 80 students and 10 faculty members.

MODEL:

Second Baptist Church considered starting a school in the early 2000s, but it never came together. COVID shifted the landscape, and students doing work from home helped their parents see more closely the public-school curriculum. Those parents began reaching out for a Christian option.

KEY FACTOR FOR THE CHURCH:

The church has close to 3,000 members, and the school is dependent on financial support from the church to offer lower tuition rates.

NOTABLE:

Because it is a newer school, a key for LCA is having a long-range plan for the school to show parents what they're signing their kids up for and to assure teachers that their job will last more than one year. LCA also recommends establishing a parent handbook, student handbook, and discipline policy from the beginning.

