**Belleview Christian School
Step 1: Culture & Community**

**Star Program 1C**

**School Culture and Community**

**ACTIVITY ONE**: Our research included data from the internet and 2000 census related to the demographics of Westminster, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. The following report was created, giving us a better picture of the community we serve:

Westminster lies in the northwest quadrant of the Denver metropolitan area, between Boulder and Denver. It is bisected by the Denver/Boulder Turnpike (U.S. 36) and it is adjacent to I-25. West 104th Avenue crosses the city and provides direct access to Denver International Airport. Westminster residents live in either Jefferson or Adams County. According to the 2000 census, Westminster has a population of 101,278. Westminster is 33 square miles in area. The median age of residents is 32.6, with 38,524 households represented. The average household size is 2.62. The male population slightly outnumbers the female population. The labor force is composed of 59,746 individuals, with the median income being $51,512. Nationalities include 84.2% white, with 15.7% of those being Hispanic, 6.2% Asian, 1.5% African-American, and 8.1% represented by other nationalities.

Twenty-four churches are listed in the Westminster area. With numerous other suburbs close-by, families have opportunities to worship at many other churches.

One-hundred ninety-seven PK-12 public schools are available to Westminster residents; 25 schools are actually listed as being located in Westminster proper. Eleven private schools are listed in Westminster, with three serving PK-KG, one serving KG-3rd grade, two serving KG-8th grade, one serving PK-9, and four serving PK-12th grade. Of the schools that serve PK-12th, two other schools besides ours would be considered Christian. Both of those schools have different philosophies, making our school unique in the community. Our school, Belleview Christian School, founded in 1920, is situated on Crown Point, the highest location in Denver. We have a beautiful 40-acre campus, with more than 32,000 square feet of classroom and office space, including the historic *Castle*.

Three secular colleges are located in Westminster; a total of ten colleges or universities are within a thirty minute driving distance of Westminster.

The average sale price of a single family detached home is $247,009. Selling prices of homes range from $125,000 to $1,092,000. The average sale price of town homes and condominiums is $171,423. The average rental for a two bedroom apartment is $900.

As previously noted, the average income is $51,512, compared with $38,365 for all of the United States. Hundreds of businesses are located in the City, including small, family-owned companies, service companies, national and international headquarters, and high-tech manufacturers. Westminster has a fiber optic network that is 17 miles long, providing Westminster with both voice and high speed data services. Westminster’s economy is comprised of 5% construction, 13% manufacturing, 5% transportation, communication, and public utilities; 2% wholesale trade, 29% retail trade, 4% finance, insurance, and real estate; 29% services, 4% public administration, 1% ad and mining; and 8% miscellaneous. Adams County has 7 % unemployment, while Jefferson County has 5.3% unemployment.

Out of a population of approximately 101,278, approximately 22,952 of those represented are school-age (K-5 through 12th grade). Since a number of our families live in other suburbs and attend our school, the number of potential students represented by the 22,952 actually residing in Westminster is quite conservative.

**ACTIVITY TWO**: We gathered information concerning student, parent, and employee demographics. While charting some of the information, now available in our STAR Notebook, other items are available to us via employment files, registration and enrollment forms, and School Minder, our software program. We had never really looked at race and gender issues, so this provided helpful information. While the student population is predominantly Caucasian, other nationalities, including Asian, Hispanic, Native American, and African American are well-represented.

**ACTIVITY** **THREE:** We used the Star Form 1C to survey our parents and employees anonymously. Thirty-one surveys were returned. We averaged all of the results. Only two areas averaged under “4”, including “Secure facilities and well-kept grounds” (3.79), and, “Sufficient training offered in technology” (3.75). We have already made improvements regarding security, especially in our childcare building (locking gates and an alarm to sound when the door opens). We are also completing fencing that will completely encompass our large playground area. Regarding training in technology, many elementary parents do not seem to be aware of the programs we already have in place. We must do a better job publicizing all that we offer, especially since formal computer classes begin in K5. All areas will be reviewed and improvements made as deemed necessary. This was an interesting exercise, which we would be wise to repeat at appropriate intervals.