Merritt Island Christian School
2024-2029 Strategic Plan

The following plan is an example of a cumulative effort of Merritt Island Christian School (MICS). Our overall goal is to continually improve and enhance both spiritual relevance, academic rigor and Christian relationships at MICS.

GOAL 1: Guide in the spiritual growth of every student

Vision: It is our focus for the faculty and staff to be discerning of the spiritual status of each student assisting with their growth. Recognizing MICS is a mission school, it is understood that students will enter our school at all stages of spiritual development from pre-Christian to mature believers, but that all should continue to grow.

SHORT TERM GOALS:

1. Provide weekly chapels
2. Offer extra-curricular devotions
3. Instruct on character words including our C.O.U.G.A.R.S. acronym (Courageous, Optimistic, Uncommon, Grateful, Authentic, Respectful, and Selfless)
4. Create an annual biblical theme
5. Encourage local pastors to visit the campus and speak to our student body
6. Encourage students to take part in annual mission trips
7. Offer service opportunities
8. Review annual student biblical formation surveys
9. Implement a biblical worldview in all classrooms by faculty
10. Develop and provide opportunities for faculty to engage in Bible study and discipleship
11. Dedicate one week to the intentional spiritual growth of our entire population of stakeholders through Spiritual Emphasis Week
12. Offer opportunities for students who desire to take the next step in their spiritual formation through baptism

STRATEGIES

1. Discern a student's spiritual maturity through conversation, observation, survey, and class discussion
2. Encourage students to take part in daily prayer, Bible study and worship
3. Encourage student involvement in a discipleship program and/or training in a local church and during specified school activities
4. Provide students with service opportunities within the community and abroad, with the goal to enhance servant leadership

GOAL 2: Provide a curriculum in which every student is entitled to a broad and balanced course of study

Vision: MICS provides a curriculum in which every student is entitled to a balanced and broad course of study to reach their full potential.

SHORT TERM GOALS:

1. Provide active and critical thinking opportunities
2. Train faculty to update Curriculum Trak to vertically link information, terminology, and concepts that are cross-curricular
3. Develop writing skills and techniques through the intentional use of following the Florida State Standards and the B.E.S.T. Standards across all grades
4. Continue to meet the individual needs of the students through programs, such as, the Academically Talented Program (ATP), the Exceptional Student Educational Program (ESE), and courses, such as, Honors, STEM, Fine Arts, and Dual Enrollment
5. Provide professional development for all faculty

STRATEGIES

1. Offer students ownership of learning through active and critical thinking
2. Develop foundational principles for reading and number concepts beginning in preschool through third grade
3. Allow for vertical linkage of information, terminology, and concepts to create a harmonious learning environment for all students grade four through twelve to enhance student success
4. Develop writing skills and techniques through the Florida State Standards across all grades and disciplines
5. Address the needs of students through programs such as the Academically Talented Program (ATP), the Exceptional Student Education Program (ESE) and courses, such as Honors, STEM, Fine Arts, and Dual Enrollment Courses
6. Provide resources and in-depth training for all teachers to incorporate a Biblical worldview in all curriculums

GOAL 3: Provide a safe environment for students

Vision: It is the goal of the faculty and staff to provide a safe environment for our students.

SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Employ individuals based on strong personal testimonies, and background checks
2. Continue to provide updated policies regarding conduct and discipline
3. Continue to provide updated security and drills such as SchoolGuard and reunification
4. Continue to provide heightened security technologies campus-wide including cameras, AI technology, and motion sensors

STRATEGIES

1. Provide full-time campus-wide security
2. Provide strong adult role models who exemplify Christian character
3. Provide appropriate consequences for misconduct following the school-adopted discipline policy
4. Provide security drills and training for faculty, staff, and students

GOAL 4: Advancement of all areas of the academic program

Vision: Merritt Island Christian School is committed to improve and enrich the academic program. Advancement is the goal in all areas. Deliberate attention will be given to addressing the individual needs of our students through an increased awareness of learning styles and multiple intelligences. In addition, specific focus will be given to writing, critical thinking, and problem solving. Results of these target areas will be marked by improved scores on Renaissance Standardized Test for Reading and Math, Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), Preliminary American College Test (PreACT), and the American College Test (ACT).

SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Notify parents and students on interpretation of scales for Renaissance Assessments, PSAT, SAT, PreACT, and ACT
2. Offer an option for scholarship and test preparation
3. Provide professional development by secondary and elementary ESE instructors
4. Add appropriate courses to the present school year
5. Continue to train faculty (K-12) on improved LMS platforms and technological advancements

STRATEGIES

1. Assist teachers, students, and parents in the interpretation and understanding of standardized test scores in order to identify areas of strength and weakness and move forward with an academic plan
2. Continue to address the unique needs of students by utilizing differentiated instruction
3. Increase offerings of Dual Enrollment and secondary programs including STEM and Fine Arts classes for secondary students
4. Increase the use and application of technology across the curriculum at all levels

GOAL 5: Utilize existing facilities to their fullest extent while planning for further expansion and improvement of public relations

Vision: Merritt Island Christian School is continually pursuing the effective use of its existing facilities and the funding for future projects to improve public relations.

SHORT TERM GOALS

1. Grow and improve the school and continue to seek benefactors
2. Improve Merritt Island Christian School's fine arts theatre upgrades, such as staging, sound, lighting, and acoustics
3. Continue to focus on Alumni accomplishments through Merritt Island Now Magazine and social media

STRATEGIES

1. Increase giving/funding for capital improvements
2. Keep alumni updated, connected, and involved to the MICS community
3. Form endowments through general philanthropy campaigns
4. Schedule fundraisers with focus on family and community building
5. Pursue grant opportunities