



Grand Rapids Non-Public Schools Choose Inclusion for 2016

Partnership will ensure students with special needs are included and accepted in general education classrooms

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. (September 2016) – Three West Michigan religiously affiliated, non-public schools have partnered with CLC Network, a national non-profit based in Grand Rapids, to more fully understand individuals with disabilities and to build support systems that enable their inclusion in all aspects of school life. CLC Network is committed to promoting the development of people with a variety of abilities and disabilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities.

“Our team is eager to work with the teachers and staff at these schools to help them understand and support the gifts and needs of each student, regardless of their ability,” said Elizabeth Lucas Dombrowski, executive director at CLC Network. “Over the past 25 years, we have seen inclusive education transform general education classrooms, social groups, and extracurricular activities--we are thrilled about the schools’ desire to move forward on this journey.”

The three non-public schools are located throughout West Michigan and include Grant Christian School, Muskegon Christian School, and West Michigan Christian High School. CLC Network now works with 65 non-public schools across Michigan, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Iowa, Illinois, New Mexico, Washington, and Maryland.

“CLC Network will help our whole school staff have uniformity in ideas, assistance, and direction as we support students with learning needs and academic talents,” said Dave Vander Goot, principal at Grant Christian School. “We look forward to CLC Network’s assistance with creating learning plans for struggling students and communicating these plans to students, parents, and teachers.”

“Our partnership with CLC Network will play a vital role in helping Western Michigan Christian Schools (consisting of Grand Haven Christian, Muskegon Christian, and West Michigan Christian High School) build on what inclusive education looks like within each school, as well as help us create a stronger vision for supporting all students,” added Whitney Piersma, director of educational support services at Western Michigan Christian Schools.

A teacher consultant will be assigned to these schools to assist with creating individualized student plans, curriculum assistance, transition plans, behavioral intervention plans, and general academic and social inclusion within the school. The schools will also have access to best practice online professional development sessions on autism spectrum disorder, behavior management, differentiation, neurodevelopment, anxiety and depression, and bullying, as well as school psychologists to help understand and create strategies for struggling learners.

For interview opportunities and media inquiries concerning the above, please contact Gwen Bultema at gwen@bultemagroup.com or 616-536-1400.

About CLC Network:

CLC Network is a national non-profit committed to promoting the development of people with a variety of abilities and disabilities to live as active, integrated members of their communities. The organization partners with families and organizations to more fully understand individuals with disabilities and to build support systems that enable their inclusion in all aspects of life. For more information on CLC Network or a list of available resources, visit www.clcnetwork.org.

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