



Alma Heights Christian School Chooses Inclusion for Upcoming School Year
School partners with CLC Network to ensure children with special needs are included in mainstream education programs

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. (July 2014) – Alma Heights Christian School, located in Pacifica, California, has partnered with CLC Network 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 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.

“CLC Network provides the training and expertise that our school needs to move into stronger support for more students and for their teachers and families,” explained David Gross, principal at Alma Heights Christian School. “I am excited and challenged by the good that a positive emphasis on inclusion will do for all of our students, faculty, and families. We can focus on the good of loving neighbor as self in order to proactively combat the evils of gossip, bullying, and self harm.”

The partnership will allow Alma Heights Christian to more effectively welcome children with special needs into their educational community. A teacher consultant will be assigned to the school to assist with creating individualized student plans, curriculum assistance, transition plans, behavioral intervention plans, and general academic and social inclusion within the school. The school will also have access to best-practice online professional development sessions on Autism Spectrum Disorder, Behavior Management, Neurodevelopment, Bullying Prevention, Anxiety and Depression in the Classroom, as well as school psychologists to help understand and create strategies for struggling learners.

“I am looking forward to what CLC Network and my son, Antonio, will bring to the Alma Heights community,” said Dr. Jennifer C. Contreras, parent and inclusion advocate. “I think that having Antonio and other kids with special needs in the school will teach typically developing kids how to develop their soft skills, their compassion, and their ability to love people who are different from themselves. CLC Network's consulting services will help the teachers by broadening their capacity and skill in teaching people who are different from the typical learner. While it seems on the surface that Alma Heights is helping Antonio, I think that authentic reciprocity will be evident in what Antonio's presence teaches the greater learning community at Alma Heights.”

“Our team is excited to work with David and the rest of Alma Heights Christian’s teachers and staff to better serve students with varying abilities,” said R.H. “Bear” Berends, executive director of CLC Network. “We look to develop and integrate custom education plans that build on each student’s gifts, while still maintaining the integrity of the school’s educational standards.”

For interview opportunities and media inquiries concerning the above, please contact Gwen Bultema at 616.656.7500 or gwen@bultemalambert.com.

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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