

# Foundations #2

## Reflecting on God's provision for SWCS

"Southwest Covenant is a discipleship ministry educating and equipping students to influence the world for Christ."

From the beginning, we have been one school family, made up of Christian families representing many churches in our community. With the support and vision from Covenant Community Church (CCC), Southwest Covenant was launched in 1982 as a discipleship ministry, in the context of Christian education.

The early years, and the effort to grow, were not without challenges. Financially, there were days when making payroll for teachers was uncertain. The goal of adding a grade each year was not always possible. Original school board member Mike Fisher recalls a meeting where it was announced that grades would need to be reduced the following year. As you can imagine, the response from families who would need to find a new school was difficult.

Despite these challenges, the school continued to grow and began expanding into secondary grades in the early 1990s. With limited space in church Sunday School rooms, secondary classes were held at Trinity Baptist Church on Vandament (currently CCY), and later for a year at Putnam City Baptist Church.

During this period, SWCS began competing in athletics, and fine arts programs were established. Built upon a strong biblical foundation, the school was already demonstrating its commitment to academic excellence. In sports, we competed in the Oklahoma Christian Schools Athletic Association (OCSAA). Without athletic facilities, all games were away, *and* many practices were held at various locations throughout the metro. With limited resources, a tradition of incredible Fine Arts educators was established, such as Bonnie Tschetter teaching choir.

In 1994, Mr. Max DeWeese became the second Headmaster and led the vision to build the north building (now the middle school). CCC and the school partnered in a capital campaign called "Building for Future Generations." The church would own the facility, while both ministries would share its use.

The Lord faithfully provided the \$450,000 needed, and the building was completed in 1995. It became home to grades 6–12 for the next 28 years. In 1996, SWCS celebrated its first graduating class of three students.

Looking back, there are many special memories such as: a prayer meeting and bonfire held on the empty land where the current MS building would be built; 7th graders like Justin Allen (current SWCS parent) playing varsity high school basketball to complete a roster; and school families working late into the night installing Sport Court tiles in the new gym, just in time for the first home game the next day.

The challenges were significant, and there were differing perspectives as the school grew. Yet through it all, it was evident that the Lord's hand was upon this ministry. He provided outstanding Christian educators, strong spiritual leadership through board members and the church, and provision through financial difficulties.

I wish there was time and space to share more about the incredible families and staff that sacrificed so much to build a foundation for the school we experience today. It is both humbling and encouraging to reflect on those early years and to see how faithfully God was building a discipleship ministry—one that continues to impact generations for His glory.

