Dear Friends of Cornerstone,

We are overjoyed to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Cornerstone opened its doors in 1993, and although much has changed since our founding, we remain committed to excellence and serving our community through our kingdom purpose of empowering students to glorify God. We are blessed to continue Cornerstone's rich heritage of enriching the lives of students in our city through an affordable, Christ-centered education, none of which would be possible without your support.

From our dedicated partners who work to advance our mission, to our generous donors who support our progress, and to our parents that our faculty and staff have the privilege to walk alongside, together we are achieving excellence in an investment that is yielding sustainable results and an eternal impact.

May God bless you.

Dr. Nita Carr
President

Drayton Nabers, Jr.
Board Chairman

Kingdom Purpose
To empower students to glorify God

Vision
To be a world-class, Christ-centered school in the inner-city

Mission
Cornerstone’s mission is to inspire and develop critically thinking and compassionate young people in a Christ-centered learning community that is committed to academic excellence and character development. We strive to empower students to be responsible and productive citizens of the world, all to the glory of God.

Core Values
- Excellence for God
- Excellence in Education
- Excellence for Students
- Excellence in Character

Touchstone
Excellence Together

History
Cornerstone Schools of Alabama was founded in 1993 by the late C. Molton Williams and area business and community leaders seeking to end the cycle of poverty, which is perpetuated by a lack of access to quality education. These leaders established Cornerstone as an elementary school in Birmingham’s Woodlawn neighborhood. In 2014, Cornerstone opened a high school in Roebuck. Cornerstone has grown from 15 children in 1993 to serving close to 600 of Birmingham’s children in grades K4-12, offering a supportive environment rooted in faith, academics, and character development.
Cornerstone receives funding from Scholarships for Kids, a state-approved Scholarship Granting Organization under the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. Funding from Scholarships for Kids helps students like Kelton succeed by offering scholarships for families seeking to expand educational opportunities for their children.

Kelton came to Cornerstone from a local public school. Initially, he struggled at Cornerstone. His teacher noticed this and worked with other faculty to address his needs. He was placed into an academic support class to help him organize, plan, and work on assignments. He was coached by his academic support teacher in developing a work ethic and commitment to his studies. He was also held accountable by his athletic coaches for putting academics first. By the end of his first school year, Kelton had met Cornerstone’s academic standards and become a role model to other students in athletics, in his character, and in the academics intervention program. Kelton graduated in the Class of 2018 and now attends Truett McConnell University.
Excellence Together for God

“If it wasn’t for Cornerstone, my kids would have taken a different path just knowing what they were up against... God, He’s doing all of this. He opened up the doors for them to come to Cornerstone!”

~ Mrs. Poythress, Cornerstone Parent

Justin and Brian’s Story

Cornerstone offers a path for families to move their children from a broken road to a redemptive and bright future. Many of our students are from neighborhoods where poverty, broken homes, unemployment, crime, and underperforming schools are prevalent in their communities. The future can look bleak.

This was true for two of our students, Justin and Brian Poythress. At their former school, they were surrounded by drugs, gangs, fights, and disrespect. Their mother shared that with their dad in prison and so many temptations and brokenness around, she often cried out to God, praying for help and opportunities for her sons. Justin found out about Cornerstone and told his mom that he would like to attend. She told her sons that they would all pray about it, but she thought that the cost would keep Cornerstone from being an option. After she was provided with the scholarship information, she knew that this was God’s answer to her prayers.

Cornerstone Schools of Alabama is providing opportunity and a transformational education for students like Justin and Brian. Through the kindness and generosity of donors, friends, and community partners, we are providing opportunities for students to not only learn and achieve academically, but also to grow in character and in faith. Through this foundation, we are assisting our students to reach their full potential and pursue lives that glorify God.

Cornerstone students are encouraged to foster a personal relationship with Christ through daily Bible class as they learn about the history and theology of the Christian faith.

Excellence Together as a Community

We are blessed to have community partners that share the love of Jesus with our students through acts of service. From academics to athletics, our partners’ contributions are bringing positive change to the lives of our students.

2017 - 2018 Volunteer Organizations

Aspire Movement
Biblical Marriage Institute
Birmingham Southern Theta Chi Fraternity
Boys Scouts of America
Briarwood Presbyterian Church
Christian Service Missions
Church of the Highlands
Community Food Bank
Founders Investment
Junior League of Birmingham
justserve.org
Legal Eagles, Burr Forman
Mason Music Foundation
Mountain Brook Baptist Church
Mountain Brook Community Church
NorthStar Ministries
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Protective Life
Redeemer Community Church
Samford ATO Fraternity
Samford Crew
Samford Foundations Class
Samford Cumberland School of Law
Samford Micah Fellows
Samford PACT Group
Samford SAAC
Student Life
Sunrise Rotary
UAB Dental School
UAB School of Nursing
Wood Frutticher

2017 - 2018 Event Partners

Ard Contracting
C. S. Beatty Construction
Drummond Company
EBSCO Industries
Julie and Jim Goyer
Mary and Victor Hanson
Melinda and Bubba Helveston
Virginia and John Hornsby
Medical Properties Trust
Fairfax and Drayton Nabers
Protective Life
Marcia and Billy Strickland
Syntax Holdings
Sallie and Peter Waite
Cornerstone students receive an affordable, life-changing education encompassing academics, character development, and faith. Our graduates are prepared to excel in college and the workplace.

**Exceeding Standards in Accreditation**

Cornerstone holds the country's leading educational accreditations with AdvancED/ Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS/CASI) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

**National Beta Award**

For the third year in a row, Cornerstone was awarded the National School of Merit Award for significant membership increase in Beta Club.

**Dual Enrollment College Courses**

Cornerstone partners with local colleges and enables high school juniors and seniors to take classes and earn college credit. Cornerstone covers the full cost of the program which introduces students to the rigors of college coursework early and gives students the opportunity to take classes that are not offered at Cornerstone.

Many students qualify to participate in the program. Two seniors in the Class of 2018 graduated with 26 credit hours, which is nearly a full year of college credit hours, at no cost to them.
Excellence Together for Students

College and Career Readiness

At Cornerstone, we ensure that every student is well prepared for a successful transition to college or their career choice. Students are exposed to various colleges and careers through college campus visits and career days. We build lasting relationships with our students, providing encouragement and support throughout their college years.

Our graduates are awarded scholarships and are attending top schools including Alabama, Auburn, Samford, and UAB.

Colleges, Universities, and Military Attended After Graduation

Air National Guard  Samford University  University of Alabama at Huntsville
Army National Guard  Tusaha Nazarene University  University of Mobile
Auburn University  Troy University  University of Montevallo
Alabama A & M  Truett McConnell University  University of North Alabama
Birmingham-Southern College  Tuskegee University  University of South Alabama
Jefferson State Community College  University of Alabama  University of Southern Mississippi
Lawson State Community College  University of Alabama at Birmingham  Wake Technical Community College
Miles College  Cornerstone's average ACT score was as much as 5 points higher than the average score at local area schools.

ACT Results

Cornerstone students undergo ACT preparation to help increase their scores and strengthen their college application.

Our 2017 test results showed tremendous gains for our students, with 100% of our students improving, including a student scoring as high as a “35” in a subject area. Cornerstone’s average ACT score was as much as 5 points higher than the average score at local area schools.

Cornerstone Enrichment Clubs

Students, teachers, parents, and community volunteers worked together to create weekly enrichment clubs in which students participate during the school day. Students choose which club they participate in during each rotation. Club choices include community service, sewing, mime, Bible, aerospace, Latin, STEM, chess, debate, and others. Cornerstone enrichment clubs offer students the ability to work with different groups within the school, develop relationships with adults other than their classroom teachers, inquire about topics in which they are passionate, build background knowledge, develop character, and enhance the rigor of our academic program.

Bible Club Success

Students in the Bible Bee (like a spelling bee with Bible verses) studied their review sheet the week of the Bee even while walking down the halls. Amazingly, by the end of the contest, no one had been eliminated. Every student knew all the Bible verses accompanied with the Bible lessons taught each week in the club.
“God has used The Hope Institute to expose us to the wisdom of world-class character educators. They led us in a process that is moving us from presenting good information about character to also cultivating a school culture that involves families and students in pursuing excellence together.” - Matthew Swale, Cornerstone Bible Instructor

Character and The Hope Institute

The Hope Institute helps schools in Alabama initiate and maintain best practices for developing good character in students. This past year, Cornerstone faculty and administration were led through a process of engaging stakeholders in the Cornerstone community to assess our character education culture program. Students, parents, and teachers were all involved in refining and communicating our character goals in the development of our new school touchstone, “Excellence Together,” as well as selecting virtues to highlight related to this touchstone. With The Hope Institute’s guidance, we initiated a process to increase trackability and student involvement in our character development strategies.

We celebrated our elementary students 145 times for being Soaring Eagles. Soaring Eagles are students who have been recognized by teachers or staff for their outstanding display of our character focuses.

Our middle and high school students completed 4,450 hours of community service during the 2017 - 2018 school year.

Cornerstone Eagles - Excellence on the Court and Field

Our mission in athletics is to provide the students of Cornerstone with an opportunity to participate in spirited competition through sports. We provide an arena in which they not only compete, but win, with teamwork and dedication. Through the process of preparation and competition, our athletes learn how to practice Biblical principles, build character, and be examples to others.

2017-2018 Season Highlights

The 5th and 6th grade boys basketball team placed 1st in the Birmingham Regional Independent Athletic Association (BRIAAA) championship and the 3rd and 4th grade girls basketball team earned 2nd place.

1A Champions - The boys varsity basketball team reached the State Finals (Final 4) in the Class 1A AHSAA Basketball Playoffs, finishing the season as the Area and Central Regional Champions.

The cross country team was the 1st team in Cornerstone's history to medal at the AHSAA State Championship by earning 3rd place.

The baseball team had their first area win in Cornerstone's history with a score of 17 to 7.
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