# Spiritual Formation Audit

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**Christian School** 

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### Overview of the Instrument and the Sample

In September and October, 20\*\*, students, parents and staff of \*\*\*\* Christian School (\*\*\*) completed an online "spiritual formation audit." The audit consisted of three parts: the Christian Character Index (CCI), the Love for God Scale (LGS), and the Worldview Index. The CCI measures seven character virtues (joy, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion); the Love for God Scale measures three dimensions of one's spiritual condition (relationship with God, fearlessness of one's faith, and humility before God); the Worldview Index examines the extent to which one's worldview is Biblical or secular.

In all, I collected usable surveys<sup>1</sup> from \*\*\* students (\*\*\* boys and \*\*\* girls), \*\* staff members (\*\* male and \*\* female), \*\*\* parents (\*\* male and \*\* female).<sup>2</sup> The student breakdown is as follows: \*\* eight graders, \*\* ninth graders, \*\* tenth graders, \*\* eleventh graders, and \*\* twelfth graders.

## **Analysis of Students' Character**

The Christian Character Index estimates seven character qualities using a scale to 90. In qualitative terms, a score of 90 corresponds to "always," a score of 70 corresponds to "often," a score of 50 corresponds to "sometimes," a score of 30 corresponds to "rarely," and a score of 10 corresponds to "never."

Table 1 indicates where \*\*\* students are strongest and weakest in character. Table 2 presents the data by grade level.

 Table 1: Student Character Scores

| Score                          |
|--------------------------------|
| (maximum possible score of 90) |
| 67.1                           |
| 61.4                           |
| 59.4                           |
| 59.1                           |
| 56.6                           |
| 55.1                           |
| 49.4                           |
|                                |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Using the question "Please tell us whether you have ever completed this survey before," we were able to minimize the likelihood that a respondent shows up more than once in this database.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> There is some overlap in these groups insofar as some parents are also staff members.

**Table 2: Student Character Scores by Grade Level** 

|                 | N   | Average<br>Character<br>Score | Joy  | Patience | Kindness | Faithfulness | Gratitude | Forgiveness | Compassion |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------------------|------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| All<br>Students | *** | 58.3                          | 67.1 | 55.1     | 59.1     | 61.4         | 49.4      | 56.6        | 59.4       |
| Grade 8         | **  | 60.4                          | 68.2 | 54.2     | 61.3     | 65.7         | 51.3      | 57.8        | 64.1       |
| Grade 9         | **  | 58.0                          | 68.8 | 54.1     | 57.1     | 63.0         | 49.6      | 55.1        | 58.2       |
| Grade 10        | **  | 57.7                          | 65.0 | 55.9     | 58.4     | 61.1         | 48.3      | 57.2        | 58.1       |
| Grade 11        | **  | 58.1                          | 67.2 | 56.2     | 58.4     | 60.0         | 47.8      | 56.2        | 61.1       |
| Grade 12        | **  | 57.2                          | 66.4 | 55.8     | 59.7     | 56.9         | 49.6      | 56.6        | 55.7       |

### Analysis of Students' "Love for God"

On a scale of zero to ten, the Love for God Scale estimates three aspects of one's faith: relationship with God, fearlessness of faith, and humility before God.

Table 3 displays the "Love for God" scores of students, by grade level. Typically, scores of 5.1 to 8.0 on the LGS (where most \*\*\* students appear to be, though near the lower end) suggest that one is living in a daily tension between knowing what's right and doing what's right. Accordingly, love for God may be intermittent or cyclical for students—something that they are trying to grow, but struggling to make a reality.

More specifically, "Humility before God" in this range suggests students are resisting full, daily surrender to God, giving up some parts of their lives to Him, but not others. "Relationship with God" in this range suggests that relationship is important to these students, but it may be a discontinuous relationship—one that is sometimes or often interrupted by other life priorities. "Fearless faith" in this range suggests that the typical student is trying to be a living witness, but may be sometimes sidetracked by concerns about his or her reputation or image.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The scale of the LGS is 0 to 10. Also, "Average Love for God" is simply the average of the three dimensions of the instrument.

**Table 3: Student "Love for God" Scores** 

|              | N   | Average "Love for God" Score | Relationship<br>with God | Fearless Faith | Humility<br>before God |
|--------------|-----|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| All students | *** | 5.2                          | 5.1                      | 4.9            | 5.6                    |
| Grade 8      | **  | 5.7                          | 6.0                      | 5.2            | 6.0                    |
| Grade 9      | **  | 5.1                          | 4.9                      | 4.7            | 5.8                    |
| Grade 10     | **  | 5.0                          | 4.8                      | 5.0            | 5.2                    |
| Grade 11     | **  | 5.1                          | 5.0                      | 4.9            | 5.4                    |
| Grade 12     | **  | 5.0                          | 4.8                      | 4.7            | 5.5                    |

# Analysis of Students' Worldview

On a scale of zero to ten, the Worldview Index estimates the extent to which one's worldview is secular or Biblical.

**Table 4: Student Worldview Scores** 

|              | Average<br>Worldview Score |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| All Students | 9.4                        |
| Grade 8      | 9.4                        |
| Grade 9      | 9.7                        |
| Grade 10     | 9.2                        |
| Grade 11     | 9.6                        |
| Grade 12     | 9.1                        |

# **Analysis of Staff and Parents**

Table 5 displays (in descending order for the staff) the average scores for staff and parents for the CCI, the LGS and the Worldview Index.

**Table 5: Staff and Parent Scores** 

|                            | <b>Staff</b> (n = **) | Parents (n = ***) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|                            |                       |                   |
| <b>Average Character</b>   | 66.0                  | 64.6              |
| Faithfulness               | 72.1                  | 71.0              |
| Joy                        | 71.0                  | 67.7              |
| Kindness                   | 68.3                  | 68.4              |
| Compassion                 | 64.2                  | 64.5              |
| Forgiveness                | 64.2                  | 62.6              |
| Patience                   | 63.9                  | 60.7              |
| Gratitude                  | 58.3                  | 57.3              |
|                            |                       |                   |
| Average Love for God       | 7.0                   | 6.5               |
| Humility before God        | 7.7                   | 7.1               |
| Relationship with God      | 7.6                   | 7.0               |
| Fearless Faith             | 5.8                   | 5.4               |
|                            |                       |                   |
| Average Worldview<br>Score | 9.9                   | 9.8               |