



2364 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006 – 215-947-4581 – VCSKids.com

October 12, 2020

Dear beloved VCS Family,

Jeremiah 29:11 is a powerful Bible verse in my life. It says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

God has always made His plans abundantly clear to me. I briefly share some major life changes that God has orchestrated. He spoke my name, called me out of a church pew as a high schooler, and gave me a conversion experience on a Sunday morning in September 1972. My pastor shared Romans 10:9-10 with me at the altar. “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Several years before that, in 1965, he gave me a desire to be a schoolteacher when I was in fourth grade. In 1973, I applied to Geneva College, a Christian liberal arts school in western Pennsylvania and registered as a secondary math major. I changed my major to elementary education before my junior year after realizing that secondary math was not my calling.

Through unusual divine circumstances, I dated and married Jeff Caler, a secondary school educator, the summer I graduated from college. We moved to Chester County, Pennsylvania, and I was hired to teach at a Christian school.

That same year, our home church began a Christian school. The pastor called Jeff and me to move back home and help him to organize and administrate the school. I taught grades 4-6 and helped to develop the elementary program, preschool through grade six.

After three years, Jeff and I moved to South Carolina so he could earn a Master of Divinity degree. I was once again hired by the Christian university to teach in their elementary school and to write textbooks at their textbook publishing company. The school was a laboratory school, and I told my husband that I believed I could be a Head of School after that experience. I had excellent training as a teacher and superior role models in the administration. My opportunity to write textbooks gave me a greater understanding of curriculum.

In 1984, God called us to Philadelphia after a principal’s phone interview offered me a kindergarten position. It is not easy for someone from Steeler Nation to move to Philadelphia! However, I felt welcomed. Soon after this move, we gave birth to our son and daughter. I tutored, substituted in Philadelphia public and private schools and homeschooled our children.

When Marshal was eight years, God called us to put the children in Christian school. *The Olney Times* posted a Valley Christian School Open House, and we attended. Mrs. Sue Lind gave us a tour, answered all of my questions as a parent, and told me she needed a fifth-grade teacher. Marshal, Amanda and I joined VCS in September 1993.

Six years later, Mrs. Lind announced her retirement, and Pastor Doug Hucke asked me to take her position. Again, God was clearly opening a door that I was to walk through. That meeting was the beginning of my future as the Head of School for the next twenty-one years. I soon completed a Master of Educational Leadership degree at Arcadia University.

Today, I announce to you, my colleagues, parents and students, and precious members of the VCS family, that I will retire in June 2021. These twenty-seven years with VCS have been hopeful and prosperous as it says in Jeremiah 29:11. As for the future that the Lord declares to give me, I am not sure. He has not told me about that yet. However, if you do the math, I will be 65 years old next June and that has been my projected end date for a few years. My husband and I will retire together from our respective schools. I shall always love Christian education, and I shall always be a teacher. I have told people for years that I have the best job in the world. To teach children about God, about themselves, and about the world that God has created for them to care for is the most noble calling bestowed on anyone.



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These past seven months, without a doubt, are the most challenging months in my entire career. You have heard me repeat, we are flying the airplane as we are building it. I thank God for our team who finished strong in 2019-2020. To you, my colleagues of 2020-2021, who are serving with me at VCS, you shall have a special place in my hall of fame of teachers and support staff. You are here pushing through to fulfill the mission of VCS; you are developing Christ-centered thinkers, with a heart for God, and equipping students to excel in all aspects of life. You and I are experiencing a season that I believe will forever change the landscape of education.

I thank God for the life lessons learned by partnering with A+ parents over twenty-seven years. You have challenged me, encourage me, and blessed me. As parents, we need the Christian school community to train and love our children well and help point them to a Savior who died for their sins and who has a plan to prosper and give them hope.

Our beloved students. I have spent about 44,000 hours with you. I have greeted well over 3,000 students on the opening day of school and congratulated over 300 graduates at the end of the school year. Thank you for allowing me to walk and talk with you. Thank you for allowing me to be your teacher and your Head of School and most importantly, your friend. My heart is full of joy with memories of you.

Friends of VCS. You know who you are. You have upheld me with your presence, your participation, your words of encouragement, your reminders of God's history with VCS, your prayers and your gifts. Your words, calls and cards always came at the divinely appointed time.

I hope that I am welcome to return for a visit from time to time. You will always be "my school" and I will always pray for you. Third John. 1:4 says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." My prayer is that VCS will long be a school that proclaims God's word. "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17

I have never liked good-byes. They make me too sad. So, for now, I'll share the words of the Christian hymn, "*When We All Get to Heaven*," penned by hymn writer and Philadelphia school teacher, Eliza Hewitt:

*Let us then be true and faithful,  
Trusting, serving every day;  
Just one glimpse of Him in glory  
Will the toils of life repay.*

*When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus  
We'll sing and shout the victory.*

Serving with you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Caler".

Susan Caler  
Head of School