TEACHING EXCELLENCE AT ST. CHRISTOPHER’S SCHOOL

CORE BELIEFS
We love and understand boys.
We take pride in our Whole Boy approach to education.
We are committed to academic excellence and preparing boys both for college and for life.
We recognize that we are part of something greater than ourselves.
We value the power of relationships and community.
We believe that every boy has both the capacity and responsibility to make a positive impact on the world.
We care most about developing young men who possess character and integrity.

DEFINING TEACHING EXCELLENCE
An outstanding teacher at St. Christopher’s demonstrates a commitment to the values and mission of the school—particularly as articulated in the “Second Century Vision (2CV)” and “Best Practices for Boys” documents—cultivates effective instruction, and exhibits a high degree of professionalism in all endeavors. This document seeks to delineate what teaching excellence is at St. Christopher’s.

When demonstrating a commitment to the values and mission of the school, an excellent teacher…
● Builds positive relationships by respecting and valuing each boy
● Models the 2CV essential qualities of leadership
● Teaches the importance of personal honor and integrity
● Contributes meaningfully through extracurricular programming
● Helps boys realize their potential to lead by focusing on making a positive difference in the lives of others

When cultivating effective instruction, an excellent teacher…
● Creates a safe, respectful classroom environment that directly and indirectly emphasizes character
● Executes lessons with evidence of careful, effective planning
● Differentiates instruction to maximize student engagement and learning
● Uses both formative and summative assessments to monitor student progress and inform future lessons
● Uses technology effectively and carefully considers how its use in class is tied to student learning
● Reflects daily on the results of lessons to inform daily planning
● Strives to maintain expertise in specific areas of responsibility
● Routinely implements effective teaching strategies based on a keen understanding of how boys think and learn and can demonstrate that learning has occurred in each boy as a result

When exhibiting a high degree of professionalism, an excellent teacher…
● Communicates skillfully with students, parents, and colleagues in all forms of interaction
● Serves as a positive, collegial member of divisional and all-school teams, and shows a willingness to volunteer during occasions when help is needed
● Collaborates effectively with peers within the same discipline(s) and/or grade level(s), as well as with colleagues from other divisions
● Seeks and responds effectively to feedback from all constituencies, both formal and informal
● Is patient and flexible in the face of both daily and broader on-going pedagogical and programmatic change
● Grows professionally through continuing education, relevant literature, and committee work, and seeks to share and lead in these areas
● Is punctual and appropriately attired