



Christ Our Rock

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Where Faith and Knowledge Grow!

PRESS RELEASE – June 5, 2008 For Immediate Release

Centralia, IL.... Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School (CORLHS) has become the first non-public high school in the state of Illinois to have an agricultural education program. Principal Curtis Wudtke states, “We are excited to be able to add the ag classes to our curricular offerings. This program will help us better serve our community and families.”

The CORLHS Board of Directors elected in April to add the agricultural program which will include numerous ag classes and FFA. Christ Our Rock received notification in late May from the Illinois State Board of Education that the proposed program met all of the requirements to be an approved agricultural education program in Illinois. The school has also requested to charter an FFA chapter, which they are qualified to do, but have not received notification on the charter yet.

Mrs. Jennifer Heinzmann, a certified agricultural instructor, has been employed by the high school to teach the ag classes which will include Introduction to the Agricultural Industry and Horticultural Science for the first year. Basic Agricultural Science and Agricultural Business Management will be added the second year with other classes to follow. The focus of the curriculum will be on the science, business, and leadership aspects of agriculture with emphasis on technology.

As a non-public school, Christ Our Rock will not receive the direct state funding that public schools receive to support their agricultural programs. The leadership of Christ Our Rock is presently working with numerous area agricultural businesses and individuals in the agricultural field to secure the funding needed to launch the program. “We’ve been very pleased with the positive response in terms of financial support that we have received from numerous people and businesses in our community,” states Wudtke.

The school states three reasons for launching this program:

- 1) CORLHS serves an area in which agricultural industries are large employers and crucial to the economy.
- 2) Many families and students desire to acquire the knowledge and skills that agricultural education and FFA provide.
- 3) Agricultural education in Illinois and FFA are excellent programs and provide valuable experiences to a wide variety of students.

Christ Our Rock serves families from a large area, including students from Nashville, Breese, Carlyle, Patoka, Salem, Centralia, Mt. Vernon, and everywhere in between. Numerous students that the school serves come from farm families while others’ parents are employed by agricultural related businesses. “We feel that adding this program is definitely filling a need that exists among families who have students already enrolled at Christ Our Rock and those who want the educational experiences that our school offers but also want agricultural education and FFA experiences.”

Although many details have already been finalized, the school personnel will continue to develop the program through the summer months so that it is ready for the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year.