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Our Mission

Fourth Baptist Christian School, as a ministry of Fourth Baptist Church, is committed to the development of a student's spiritual life in Jesus Christ, while pursuing academic excellence in a manner which honors and glorifies God, based on the only infallible Word, the Bible.

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Why Christian Education—Part 2

In a world buzzing with information and ideas, where do we find the compass to navigate the complexities of life? How do we equip our children—not just with knowledge, but with wisdom, character, and a sense of purpose that transcends the classroom?

Welcome to a journey of discovery—a journey that delves beyond the surface of education to explore the profound depths of faith and learning. In the halls of Fourth Baptist Christian School, this journey is not merely a quest for academic excellence; it is an adventure—where every lesson, every interaction, and every moment is infused with the timeless truths of the Christian faith.

In this article, and in the next two newsletters, it is my desire that you come to understand how valuable Christian education is and that you will internalize that value for you and your family.

THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

If one was to search the Scriptures for the phrase “Christian education,” you would come up empty. Though that phrase is never used in the Bible, God’s Word begins with the presupposition that all education is Christian or biblical at its core. In fact, the Bible speaks much about the “moral and spiritual instruction of believers in general and of children in particular” (Horton 1).

Moses instructs Israel in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 that “The Lord our God, the Lord is One!” and that His people should worship Him in spirit and in truth. But what follows in verses 6-9 is some of the greatest

evidence of the need for a distinctly Christian education. Moses instructs the people to (a) keep these words in their heart, (b) teach them to your children, and (c) review the words and works of God in their families.

From that tradition, we see that education—whether oral or written—has been Christian from the start. Even as one would look to the beginnings of the early church in Acts, Christians were both teachers and students! Much of the



schooling between the second and tenth centuries was maintained by bishops and included not only Christian doctrine, but also the seven common liberal arts: grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, music, geometry, and astronomy (Lems).

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The purpose of Christian education is more than just the academic schooling of children; America is replete with excellent academic institutions! However, God’s plan is that each believer would transmit the knowledge of God from one generation to the next (Morris, 1977). One of Crawford’s major reasons for Christian education is that it is necessary for evangelism (Machen,

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(*Why Christian Education, continued from page 1*)

1995).

The desire for every Christian school student (and every Christian student) should be Christ-likeness (Luke 6:40). The student must learn what his place is in God's sovereign plan. Christian schools are necessary to drive students away from a life of anti-Christian thought (Machen, 1995), and instead, become imitators of God (Eph 5:1). The Bible places no limitations on emulating the characteristics and attributes of God: we are charged to be as holy as He is (I Pet 1:15-16). In developing this Christ-likeness, the Christian school will refine the God-given talents within each student and spur them on to godly action.

The methods used in the Christian school may not necessarily be different from its public school counterparts, but those methods will not be used if they are contrary to Scripture. As Christian educators, we will use methods appropriate to the student's ability levels (I Cor 3:1-2) and to the subject matter at hand. These methods must be powerful and effective for reaching the educational objectives, but must also point to Christ, who is the Master Teacher. He used techniques ranging from individual instruction to small groups and large lectures. Christ also used object lessons, illustrative stories, historical references, debate, and many other means of communication.



spiritual growth in their students' lives.

But it's not just about what happens in class; it's about the atmosphere that surrounds us every day. Chapel services aren't just assemblies; they're opportunities to connect with the "big picture" story of the Bible. Bible classes aren't just discussions, but are paths of discovery where doubts are welcomed, questions are explored, and hearts are opened.

At Fourth Baptist Christian School, spiritual growth isn't an afterthought; it's woven into the very fabric of who we are. It's in the friendships we form, the kindness we show, and the love we share. It's knowing that your children are not just students; they are children made in the image of God, children for whom Christ died.

Fourth Baptist Christian School exists to teach, to train, and to inspire. But more than that, we are here to encourage growth—growth in knowledge, but also in faith, in love, and in the grace of God that surrounds us every single day. ~Andrew Broere



THE INTEGRATION OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Step into the halls of Fourth Baptist Christian School and you'll quickly realize that it's more than just a place of learning—it's a community where faith and education walk hand in hand. Here, we believe that true growth goes beyond textbooks and tests; it's about nurturing the spirit as much as enriching the mind.

In our classrooms, teachers aren't just educators; they're mentors, guides, and cheerleaders. They don't just teach subjects; they weave in stories of faith, moments of reflection, and prayers that lift us. Teachers are encouraged to build relationships with their students to foster academic and

Works Cited

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Machen, John Gresham. *Education, Christianity, and the State*. Hobbs, New Mexico: The Trinity Foundation, 1995.

Morris, Henry M. *Christian Education for the Real World*. Green Forest, Arkansas: Master Books, 1977.

Maranatha Baptist University Conductor Directs MACS Band Festival

The 2023 MACS Band Festival was held on Friday, November 10th, at Fourth Baptist. 103 students from four MACS schools participated that day. Students rehearsed almost five hours together that day to present the final concert at 6:30 p.m. to a great crowd of around 200 people. Students and their directors rehearsed the festival music in advance and did a great job combining together into one large band.

Our guest conductor was Mr. Andrew Bonnema from Maranatha Baptist University who did a great job instructing and leading the ensemble. He chose four songs for the band to perform including: *Peacemaker March* by Karl King, *And All the Bells Shall Ring* by Rob Romeyn, *A Walk in The Morning Sun* by Pierre LaPlante, and *Critical Mass* by Todd Stalter.

The eighteen percussionists rehearsed a percussion ensemble song called *Here Drums Christmas* that they also performed in the final concert. We were privileged to have nine sectional coaches with us that morning to share instrument specific instruction and also assist each section with their band music. Two of the sectional coaches, Ms. Teresa Herbert and Mrs. Abigail Nicholson, played solos for our concert and showed

students the value of being a life-long musician! Throughout the day, our students enjoyed snack breaks, great meals, and a fun *Minute to Win It* game time.

We thank all of the parents, teachers, students, sectional coaches, meal coordinators, and concert-goers for making this a great day of learning for our MACS band students!

~ Levi Kolwinska & Annelies Harmon



Elementary Field Trips: Zoo, Feed My Starving Children, Chick-Fil-A and more!

Third Grade to MN Zoo

One of the highlights of third grade science is studying animals and their habitats. Students have learned how to classify animals as invertebrates and vertebrates, and they have learned about many different habitats around the world. After completing our unit, we visited the Minnesota Zoo and made animal posters for a book report. At the zoo, we attended the "Wings and Things" show. We were introduced to porcupines, parrots, a skunk, ball snake, and a burrowing owl. One of our students and a parent chaperone each got to have a bird fly to their hand during the show. After the show was over, many students choose to touch the ball snake too! Students got to watch trainers preparing the dolphins for their upcoming transport. We also got to walk on the new treetop trail. Other students somehow got the wolves howling. We all learned something new and enjoyed a fun filled day learning about God's creation! ~Jody Faithfull



First & Fourth Grades to Feed My Starving Children, Chick-fil-A, and Blue Sun Soda Shop

The first and fourth grade buddies went on a combined field trip on November 17th. We started our day at Feed My Starving Children, packing food boxes to send to Ukraine. Our school, along with a couple other smaller groups, packed 153 boxes which will feed 92 children in Ukraine for a year. After Feed My Starving children, the first graders went for lunch at Chick-fil-A , and the fourth graders headed to the Blue Sun Soda Shop for a tour. The owner of the Blue Sun Soda Shop showed us all the tools and steps to making and bottling soda. It is one of very few places that still bottles soda in reusable bottles. At the end of our tour, we tasted four unique types of soda. Then we switched places and first grade had their tour while fourth grade ate lunch at Chick-fil-A. I can say that a great time was had by all. ~Amy Pickard





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Fundraising for the Senior Class

There are 24 students in the Class of 2024, and they will be going to The Wilds of North Carolina for their Senior Trip this May. The Wilds holds a special camp for high school seniors that combines fun activities with solid biblical challenges for the students. We feel this trip is a very valuable experience for our students. They typically get to spend a couple of days in a destination of their choice following the camp experience. To send a group with this many students, we need to raise a significant amount of money. We thank you for your help in supporting our senior class with the various fundraisers they have had throughout the year. Here's a breakdown of amounts earned since the beginning of this school year.

Chick-Fil-A:	\$ 700.00
Cub Grocery Bagging:	\$ 800.00
Game Concessions:	\$ 5,596.00
Cupcakes:	\$ 500.00
Donuts/Frappuccinos:	\$ 300.00
Hot Lunch Pizza Profit:	\$ 2,565.00
Jeans Day:	\$ 843.00
Panera:	\$ 406.00
<u>Wreaths/Garland:</u>	<u>\$ 4,114.00</u>
Approx. \$\$ earned this school year:	\$ 15,824.00

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Christmas Concert Review

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Through both reflective and exuberant carols, FBCS musicians sought to worship the King of kings who came in human form to save us from our sins. Our elementary students of all ages sang classic carols such as "Away in the Manger" and "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Older elementary students stretched their musicianship skills through a call and response song ("What Strangers Are These"), harmonizing ("One Bright Star"), and even a little German ("Jesus Is Born, Prince of Peace"). Meanwhile, fifth grade made their band and chime performance debut. Sixth grade took the audience on a fast paced "Toboggan Run" with their band instruments and explored different techniques in their hand chimes pieces. The Elementary choir (fourth—sixth grades) painted a gentle snowfall scene and promptly roused the audience during "Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep."

Our secondary students continued the evening with their takes on both familiar and unfamiliar Christmas carols. The Band students played medleys of songs including "A Christmas Flourish" and "Listen to the Season." The handbell choirs used a wide variety of playing techniques and included percussion

instruments in their performances of "On This Day Earth Shall Ring", "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent", "Noel Francais", and "Volte on the Holly and the Ivy." The Mixed Ensemble processed down the aisles as they sang "Angels We Have Heard on High," and then brought down the house with their rendition of "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch"—which featured Jon Kolacz as our soloist—and included a guest appearance by the Grinch himself! The JH Choir sang one of their English class poems with an arrangement of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The SH Choir sang "Pengyou, Ting! (Listen, Friend!)" in Chinese and finished the concert with "Gloria in Excelsis" accompanied by organ, piano, brass and percussion ensemble. The evening was well-attended and the audience enthusiastically responded to each carol that the students performed. ~Levi Kolwinska and Annelies Harmon





SH Musicians Minister to Senior Citizens in Our Community

Our FBCS Senior High Musicians visited three retirement homes on Wednesday, Dec. 13, to present our Christmas repertoire. The interaction between our students and the older generation is incredibly important, and our students enjoyed meeting and talking with the residents.

At Amira Choice in Minnetonka, students were able to perform and also engage the residents by working on Christmas trivia puzzles together. The Mixed Ensemble students had the privilege of singing in the memory care unit and observing how music connects with people who have dementia. We travelled to WestRidge in Minnetonka, and sang for some ladies from Fourth Baptist and a large group of their friends. We enjoyed eating a pizza lunch in their dining hall, but we might have been a little too noisy for some people's liking, as teenagers are not known for their quiet voices.

Our last stop was at Covenant Living in Golden Valley. We always enjoy our time there as their residents are very involved in music (including their own community choir and handbell choir) and they are always appreciative of our performance. Our host even made a special "Grinch punch" with green sherbet—at our request—and the students were so excited! We were so pleased with our students' great

attitudes and performances on Ministry Day. We are thankful for the opportunity that the Lord gave us to minister to people in our community and we look forward to going again next year! ~Levi Kolwinska



SECOND QUARTER 2023-24	All "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
First Grade	Paton Blazosky Oliver Hanks Anna Kachula Carson Kolwinska Lyla Loch Daniel Nsameh Wesley Rathbun Santiago Skurat	Asher Bruder Wilson Campbell Mira Damyan Mila Demchenko Lily Eggleton Kristen Goshgarian Jeshua Grado Daniel (DJ) Jean-Louis Caspian Jeppeson Abigail Macalus Alexa Miezwa Evangeline Shrader	Amelia Kappel Timothy Loghinov Karina Petrashov
Second Grade	Adam Babcock Micah Bruder Gage Byers Caleb Caasi Ryker Johnson Isabella Korovin Peter Levang Maxim Lipinskiy Everly Quinn Aurora Rathbun Hudson Schwartzenburg Harper Seymour Neriah Shelton Anthony Zhukouski	Luke Chihak Eva Damyan Gabriela Damyan Brecken Felt Zackary Friar Octavian Golodneac Kayda Mendoza-Tamayo Amelia Sisam Joshua Strong	Alexandra Kachula Ophelia Kifyak Daniel Tkach
Third Grade	Leyla Blazosky Blake Coulson Eva Jenkins Blessa Johnson Elise Liu Emmaline Macalus Rhys McLeish Ezekiel Nsameh Drake Ogbourne Michael Olaru Gianna Reese Micah Rolling Lucia Skurat John Strong Michael Totimeh	Matthew Aleckson Daniel Chuprin Emma Damyan Vanessa Diaz Aria Felt Zoey Jean-Louis Avonlea Laumann Calvin Levang Lincoln Loch Max Montgomery	Asher Delich Isaac Leanger Jo'Andri Merchant Elana Sayko Jason Ureke Shaela Zeah
Fourth Grade	Ava Blazosky Harrison Kappel Michelle Olaru	Dan Damyan Parker Delich Brielle Faithfull Kate Kovalchuk Gabriel Nieson Ammiel Rylka Isaiah Shrader Robinson Smith Thomas Wheaton Jace Wicklund	Isabella Agness Benjamin Brutskiy Leah Damyan Zachary Demchenko Roland Eppers Maria Kellogg Timothy Kifyak Mira Nagel Vanessa Tkach
Fifth Grade	Roman Kachula Viviana Skurat	Belinda Aleckson Kimberly Arroyo Josiah Bruder Roman Burlak Trey Johnson Margot Levang Sofia Lipinskiy Emmanuel Scherr Anna Strong Reuben Totimeh	Garrett Coulson Daniel Damyan Jacob Damyan Liam Landin Colin McCulloch Elijah Rudolph Kevelle Spears Tianci (Grace) Zhou

SECOND QUARTER 2023-24	ALL "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
Sixth Grade	Ashley Blazosky Katelyn Kolwinska Alexis LaVasseur Bryna McLeish Pierce Ogbourne Elise Pacencu Naomi Pacencu	Elias Brombacher David Caasi Liesl Campbell Daniella Damyan Hunter Delich Karaleena Dumyan Chloe Johnson Allison Kovalchuk Alessandra Mendoza-Tamayo Arima Okaf Viviana Pullis	Jacob Demchenko Ison Eppers Isabella Kifyak Ezekiel Leanger Morgan Nixon Ella Petrashev Alexander Tkach Benjamin Villar
Seventh Grade	Sarah Goshgarian	Liam Broere Ziqian (Isaac) Gao Lincoln Johnson Sean Okaf Alexsandr Petrashev	Dima Brutskiy Isabelle Chuprin Levi Damyan Mark Damyan Rilyn Faithfull Nathan Kauffman Alexus Kellogg Jeremiah Komonash David Krasnopivtsev Allison Leanger Alexandra Lipinskiy Clara Morrell Samara Reese Gabriel Shrader Tiegan Treptau
Eighth Grade	Isaiah Caasi Ava Fure Sara Sousa Lauren Stephens	Star Delich Jizhen (Jila) Peng Claire Vikander	Nikita Bodnar Anna Damyan Rebeka Damyan Lily Goshgarian Christian Hoffman Christian Kolwinska Lukyn Williams
Ninth Grade	Karina Anderson Josiah Combs John Goshgarian Nikita Lipinskiy Joseph Litkey Adelaisa Pullis	Ethan Coulson Haihang (Kai) Guo Yiwen Huang Mark Manoila Brianna Treptau Asher Zderchuk	Gretchen Campbell Deborah Dahl George Damyan Tyler Dewey Israel Keyzer
Tenth Grade	McKenzie Johnson Anastasia Lipinskiy Tava McLeish Charles Okaf Megan Page Grant Vikander Lillian Williams	Anja Brombacher Blake Delich Carlos Flodstrom Brandt Johnson Giselle Legoff Ethan Markgraf Mialia (Jenny) Nayrath Eli Villar	Elena Arroyo Joseph Goshgarian Qilun (Aaron) Huang Jinwen (Jane) Qin Tyler Stephens
Eleventh Grade	Adelynn Farish	Jack Fure Jonathan Kolacz Noah Lease Sophia Morrell	Cody Mercado Lexi Owens Emma Payne Sydney Weisser
Twelfth Grade	Isaac Caasi Emily Chuprin Grace Goshgarian Melissa Kauffman Sage McQueary Julia Muhr Joy Okaf Sofia Pullis Clara Rieschl Johannah Rieschl	Lillian Broere Josiah Brombacher Jacob Combs Nathan French Greta Gustafson Shaun Larson Carsten Markgraf Isaiah Roman Alyssa Stephens	David Damyan Matthew Herrick Sarah Jacob Henry Litkey Kristin Victor