

# FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## Warrior Quarterly Newsletter

VOLUME XV, ISSUE 4

JUNE 2025



### Class of 2025 Graduation

They made it! On Friday, May 23, Fourth Baptist Christian School graduated its 51st group of seniors at the commencement ceremony for the Class of 2025. Eleven graduates were in the spotlight as they walked into the auditorium of Fourth Baptist Church for the last time as seniors, and then walked out for the first time as Alumni. As always, this graduation ceremony was a time for both looking back and looking forward.

We looked back with grateful remembrance on the years of sacrifice that were represented as parents were thanked for all of the ways that they have invested in their children's education. We looked back at the many and varied accomplishments of this graduating class. We looked back to thank the faculty and staff of FBCS, as well as everyone else who invested in these seniors' lives.

Several honors these students received were recognized as a part of the ceremony. Six seniors wore the Gold Honor Cord, representing a four-year GPA of 3.4 or higher: Adelynn Farish, Jack Fure, Jonathan Kolacz, Megan Lewellen, Sophia Morrell, and Lexi Owens. Out of these six, Adelynn Farish was recognized as the Valedictorian, having the highest GPA, and Jack Fure was a close second as Salutatorian.

Four of these graduates were recognized as "Lifers" at FBCS, joining us in 1st grade or

earlier, and staying all of the way through: Jonathan Kolacz, Cody Mercado, Sophia Morrell and Sydney Weisser. Jon was our "uber" lifer, having started in K4!

Two musical numbers were presented as part of the ceremony. The Senior High Choir sang *Look at the Birds*, reminding our graduates to trust in God's ongoing care for them. The seniors themselves then sang, remembering God's faithfulness to them with *The Goodness of God*.

Jack Fure gave the Salutatorian Address, highlighting each of his classmates in a humorous speech which predicted their futures as seen at their 10-year class reunion. He also worked in stories of their escapades through the years, especially on Senior Trip! He seriously thanked all who had invested in their class through the years, and encouraged all of his classmates to continue trusting God as they moved forward in life.

Addie Farish gave the Valedictorian Address. Her speech for her classmates highlighted the fact that difficulties were sure to come, as evidenced by her own life story, but reminded them that they could trust in a faithful God to walk with them through

every trial. Pulling from experiences in her own life, she emphasized that truth that the grace of God would see them through, and they could continue to build upon the

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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.

Designer/Editor: Alison French



Jack Fure



Adelynn Farish

*(Graduation, continued from page 1)*

foundation that had been laid in their lives through their homes, churches and schools.

Mr. Mark Monroe, History teacher and Assistant Administrator at FBCS, gave the Commencement address. Mr. Monroe was with this class as their 7th grade homeroom advisor, and so to come full circle with them as they end their career at FBCS, he gave them one final exhortation. His address reminded them that soon the accolades of graduation day would fade. What would they do next, when the hoopla was over? In looking forward, he pointed them to the true secret of life, to continually acquaint themselves with Almighty God. He is the Master of the Universe, and He is worthy of their lifetime pursuit of getting to know Him better. He planned their redemption and desires a relationship with them. They can continually spend their lives "taking one step closer to Christ." He is greater and more powerful than they can describe, and so

they can trust Him throughout their lives.

Finally then, the time had come to graduate. Each graduate was handed their diploma and recognized as having fulfilled all of the requirements to graduate from FBCS. Their future plans were detailed and subject awards were given. Addie Farish, Class President, presented the class gift to the school, a set of Bubble soccer balls for future students to enjoy. Fun!

Mr. Matt Fure gave the closing benediction, dedicating each of the graduates to the Lord, and committing them to His care.

Antonio Eppers, Adelynn Farish, Jack Fure, Kavin Kellogg, Jonathan Kolacz, Megan Lewellen, Cody Mercado, Sophia Morrell, Lexi Owens, Emma Payne and Sydney Weisser, Congratulations! We are proud of you and we pray that God will use you in great ways in the days and years ahead!

*~Pastor Jared Page, Administrator*



Back row: Kavin Kellogg, Jack Fure, Tony Eppers, Jon Kolacz, Cody Mercado  
Front row: Megan Lewellen, Adelynn Farish, Sydney Weisser, Sophia Morrell, Emma Payne, Lexi Owens



## Staff Members in New Roles & Responsibilities

While we are bidding farewell to two teachers at the close of this school year, we are fully staffed for the coming school year. Several teachers are moving into new positions this fall, and a few of our staff are taking on extra responsibilities.

### Farewell to these two elementary teachers:

- **Ms. Adrea Lynch**—5th grade
- **Miss Abbie Page**—Kindergarten, second section

### Changes in Responsibilities for 2025-26:

- **Miss Lily Canfield**, started in January as an elementary aide this year, and will be teaching 5th grade for us this fall.
- **Mrs. Jeanine Cheek** (4th grade) will be returning to 1st grade, teaching a second section.
- **Mrs. Amy Pickard** was an aide this year and is returning to a teaching role as the primary 4th grade teacher (mornings.)
- **Mrs. Kim Morrell** will be the 4th grade aide in the mornings, and then teach 4th grade in the afternoons. (We do not expect to have a second section of 2nd grade this fall.)
- **Miss Jennifer Kovacik** and **Miss Julie Kovacik** will be taking on some administrative responsibilities in addition to their teaching duties. Jennifer will act as the Lower Elementary Dept. Head, and both Jennifer and Julie are taking the lead in curriculum purchasing and accreditation preparation.
- **Mrs. Shannon Fure**, Office Administrator, will be assuming the Gradelink Specialist role and managing Gradelink for student schedules, report cards, etc.
- **Pastor Jared Page**, Administrator, is also assuming the role of Academic Guidance Counselor, and will be the go-to person for PSEO and college questions.
- **Mrs. Leah Rolling** will be teaching all elementary and JH P.E. classes as well as Health class for secondary students.
- **Mrs. Sarah Stephens** will be focusing only on Athletic Director responsibilities.



Adrea Lynch



Abbie Page



Lily Canfield



Jeanine Cheek



Amy Pickard



Kim Morrell



Jennifer Kovacik



Julie Kovacik



Shannon Fure



Jared Page



Leah Rolling



Sarah Stephens

## 2025 Elementary Spelling Bee Competitions

The 2025 Elementary Spelling Bees were held Friday, April 25, in the Fourth Baptist Auditorium. The First through Third graders competed within their own grade only, and the Fourth through Sixth graders competed against each other in a combined Spelling Bee.

### Grades 1—3 Spelling Bees

#### 1st Grade Winners

1st: Quintin Levang  
2nd: Porter Schwartzburg  
3rd: Stella Schindelholz

#### 2nd Grade Winners

1st: Lily Eggleton  
2nd: Wesley Rathbun  
3rd: Carson Kolwinska

#### 3rd Grade Winners

1st: Micah Bruder  
2nd: Peter Levang  
3rd: Anthony Zhukouski & Hudson Schwartzburg

### Grades 4—6 Spelling Bee

The winners for the grades 4—6 Spelling Bee were:

1st place: Ava Blazosky—5th grade  
2nd place: Robinson Smith—5th grade  
3rd place: Eva Jenkins—4th grade



First Graders



Second Graders



Fourth—Sixth Graders



Third Graders

## SH Fine Arts Festival

FBCS hosted our annual MACS Fine Arts Festival on April 4. FBCS senior high students participated in many large group ensembles including band, choir, mixed ensemble, large instrumental ensembles, and handbell choirs. Many students also participated in piano, vocal, and instrumental solos or small ensembles. Our students were privileged to receive feedback from amazing judges who offered great advice and encouragement to each ensemble or soloist. We are thankful

for the help of our accompanists—Miss Harmon, Mrs. Fredericksen, and Mrs. Peal—for their help with rehearsals and performances. Our students performed very well and received high rating and placings at the MACS Festival. We are thankful for the talents the Lord has given to each of our students and are thankful for their hard work preparing for our festival. Many of our soloists and groups were also able to perform their songs during the Ministry Trip. ~ *Mr. Levi Kolwinska*



### FBCS 2025 SH MACS FINE ARTS RESULTS:

#### SH MACS Fine Arts: Music - Vocal

Choir	SH Choir	2nd	Superior
Choral Group	Mixed Ensemble	1st	Superior
Large Vocal Ensemble	Men's Ensemble	1st	Superior
Large Vocal Ensemble	Ladies Ensemble	2nd	Superior
Vocal Quartet	Deborah Dahl/ Adelynn Farish/ Jack Fure/ Jonathan Kolacz	1st	Superior
Vocal Quartet	Karina Anderson/ Anja Brombacher/ Megan Page/ Lillian Williams		Excellent
Vocal Quartet	Isaiah Caasi/ Ethan Coulson/ Christian Hoffman/ Christian Kolwinska		Excellent
Vocal Trio	Jack Fure/ Kavin Kellogg/ Jonathan Kolacz	1st	Superior
Vocal Trio	Adelynn Farish/ Sophia Morrell/ Emma Payne		Superior
Vocal Trio	Aaron Huang/ Ethan Markgraf/ Tyler Stephens		Superior
Vocal Duet	Jack Fure/ Jonathan Kolacz	1st	Superior
Vocal Duet	Blake Delich/ Lexi Owens		Excellent
Male Vocal Solo	Jonathan Kolacz	1st	Superior
Male Vocal Solo	Jack Fure	2nd	Superior
Male Vocal Solo	Ethan Coulson		Excellent
Female Vocal Solo	Karina Anderson		Excellent
Female Vocal Solo	Lexi Owens		Excellent



#### SH MACS Fine Arts: Music - Instrumental

Band	SH Band	1st	Superior
Handbell Choir	Fourth Platinum	1st	Excellent
Handbell Choir	Fourth Gold	2nd	Excellent
Lg. Instrumental Ensemble	Fourth Brass	1st	Superior
Lg. Instrumental Ensemble	Fourth Woodwinds	3rd	Superior
Percussion Ensemble	Fourth Percussion	2nd	Superior
Sm. Instrumental Ensemble	Grant Vikander/Lukyn Williams	2nd	Superior
String Solo	Karina Anderson (cello)	1st	Superior





### SH MACS Fine Arts: Arts & Crafts, Photography

Drawing: Monochromatic	Karina Anderson	3rd	Superior
Drawing: Monochromatic	Jila Peng		Excellent
Drawing: Monochromatic	Elena Arroyo		Excellent
Drawing: Polychromatic	Jila Peng	1st	Superior
Sculpture	Joseph Litkey	2nd	Excellent
Landscape & Architecture Photo.	Yiwen Huang	2nd	Superior



### SH MACS Fine Arts: Music - Piano

Classical Piano Solo	Sophia Morrell	2nd	Superior
Classical Piano Solo	Ethan Markgraf		Excellent
Classical Piano Duet	Ethan Markgraf/ Sophia Morrell	2nd	Superior

### SH MACS Academic Testing:

Bible: New Testament	Megan Page	3rd
Bible: Old Testament	Tyler Stephens	3rd
Algebra	Grant Vikander	1st
Advanced Math	Cody Mercado	3rd
Biology	Tava McLeish	1st
Chemistry	Grant Vikander	1st
English	Karina Anderson	1st
Geometry	Karina Anderson	1st
Music Theory	Karina Anderson	1st
Physics	Kavin Kellogg	2nd
Political Science/Economics	Jack Fure	1st
US History	Tava McLeish	1st
World History	Kavin Kellogg	1st
Essay	Star Delich	2nd
Poetry	Ava Fure	1st

## Drama Class ~ A New Elective Offering

The drama elective was a new addition to the elective options for this year. We had a few students in our class with drama experience, but for most students, it has been a new venture.

We performed with puppets for the elementary chapels on two different occasions. In the fall, we did a Fourth Grade Fun Friday drama activity with the fourth graders. The students also prepared and performed a Thanksgiving presentation for the Golden Agers in November, and held a

story time for the K4 and K5 classes.

In December, the class did a condensed presentation of *A Christmas Carol* for the third grade classes. Our spring presentation was a condensed Reader's Theatre version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* for the Golden Agers and any school classes that were able to join. The students have worked hard to grow their skills this year, and it has been fun watching them try new things! ~ Miss Julie Kovacik



## K4 & K5 Informance & Grades 1-6 Concert "Elementary Expeditions"

On Friday, April 25th, K4 and K5 friends and family filled the elementary music room to enjoy our interactive music classes known as *Informances*. Expertly led by Mrs. Marissa Fredericksen, parents discovered how students build a musical foundation through play. Students pulled parents into their earliest rhythm, singing, and movement experiences. Students used small percussion instruments to keep a beat, sang little phrases, moved to Leroy Anderson's *Horse and Buggy*, even identifying high and low sounds with glow sticks. A fan favorite! Mrs. Fred reminded the audience of God's gift though His Son's sacrifice for us on the cross to save us from our sins. Families went home with a hand-crafted wordless book.

At the end of a full family day, FBCS elementary students presented their "Campfire Chorus" concert. Our performing groups sparkled with unexpected woodland surprises. The fifth and sixth grade bands rumbled like a Kodiak bear, chased the squirrels, combined to perform *Creepy Crawly Critters*, and featured a persistent woodpecker convention. Four different chimes groups pointed to the joy of praising God for His majestic works. Elementary choir sang sacred songs in Hebrew and English and finished with the active and percussive *Crawdad Song*.

Since the camp experience wouldn't be complete without a community sing-along, our audience joined us twice for first grade's *Razzama Tazzama* and second grade's *I Love*

*the Mountains*. Fourth graders Sam Damyan, Timothy Kifyak, and Ammiel Rylka accompanied several songs with their guitars! First grader showed their early improvisation skills in *The Bear Went over the Mountain*. Second grade demonstrated their early instrument ostinato (musical pattern) skills in *She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain*.



Our third and fourth graders built on these skills in varied capstone composition pieces. Third grade performed the Japanese folksong *Hotaru Koi* with tiny finger lights representing the fireflies. They presented the story of the *One-Dog Canoe* in which six different groups created recorder rhythms and tunes using four notes, percussion sections for key words, and movement sections. Fourth grade sang about a compelling camp letter that sailed into the crowd in the form of paper airplanes. They performed a complex singing square called *Listen to the Mockingbird* in addition to playing a canon entitled *Misty Mountain Morning* on recorders.

Ultimately, the concert pointed to our amazing Savior and Creator who is worthy of praise and adoration. All creation points to Him and His willingness to come to earth to live among us, die for our sins, and claim the victory over death through His resurrection. Our grateful response can only be *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* and *I Surrender All*.

We are grateful for supportive family, friends, teachers, and staff who encourage us through their godly examples to follow our Savior throughout all of our lives.

~ Miss Annelies Harmon







## Grades 7-12 Spring Concert "Musical Echoes"

Fourth Baptist Christian School hosted an evening of music with our grades 7-12 spring concert, titled "Musical Reflections." The program showcased all of our secondary musical ensembles and highlighted the accomplishments of the graduating Class of 2025.

The evening opened with the Senior High Band delivering a rousing rendition of *The Magnificent Seven*. This was followed by a collaborative effort between Junior High and Senior High bands with the energetic *Highlights from 1812 Overture*. The Junior High Band impressed the audience with two engaging pieces: *At Twilight* and the playful *Skedaddle*.

Handbell ensembles brought a variety of textures to the evening. The Bronze Bells rang out *Clarion Call*, while the Silver Bells shared the joyful *Exuberant Joy*. The Gold Bells presented the classic hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies*, and the Platinum Bells delivered the spiritual *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*. Following that, the Platinum Bells executed a swashbuckling finale with *Pirates of the Caribbean*—complete with pirate hats, a parrot and a sword!

Our Men's Ensemble performed the energetic *Forever King!* and the Ladies' Ensemble sang the moving *All Things New* based on Revelation 21:5-6. Both the Men's and Ladies' Ensemble numbers were composed by the incredible Christian composer, Dan Forrest. The Mixed Quartet featuring Debbie

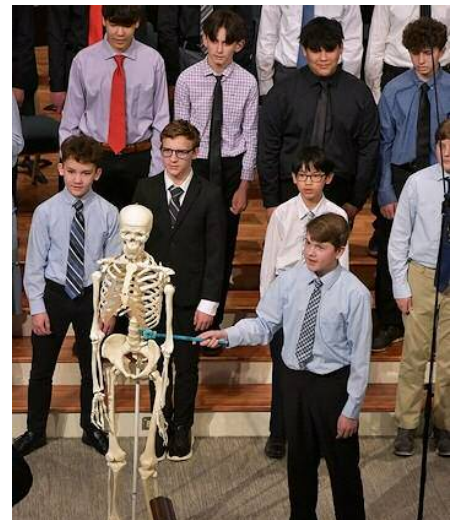
Dahl, Addie Farish, Jack Fure, and Jon Kolacz delivered the reflective *Like A River In My Soul*.

The Junior High Choir contributed two selections: *Grace* and the lively spiritual *Walk Dem Bones*—complete with our student Ezekiel pointing out the bones on a skeleton. The Mixed Ensemble sang two selections, *Grace Alone* and *Good Night, Dear Heart*. As the concert came to a close, the Senior High Choir performed the Spanish piece *Esto Les Digo* based on Matthew 18:19-20, followed by a fun vocal rendition of *Beethoven's A Capella 5th*.

A slideshow and ministry trip report by Addie Farish, Jack Fure, Jon Kolacz, and Sophia Morrell reflected on the students' service and outreach experiences on our recent Ministry Trip to Chicago. The evening included a special moment of Senior Recognition, honoring the Class of 2025 for their leadership and contributions to the FBCS music program. We thank our eleven seniors for their commitment and dedication to the music program at FBCS! ~Mr. Levi Kolwinska









## Chicago Music Ministry Trip

### April 30 – May 4, 2025

Our recent ministry trip to Chicago was filled with ministry, learning, and fellowship. Here's a day-by-day recap of the experience our students shared:

#### Wednesday, April 30 – Arrival & First Concert

We departed school at 8:30am after loading the bus, van, and trailer. After two rest stops, we arrived at our hotel by 4:00pm. Students quickly changed into concert attire and departed for Independent Baptist Church in Bolingbrook.

We were warmly welcomed with a pizza dinner at 5:45pm and set up for our 7:00pm concert. Students did an excellent job preparing and performing, and they enjoyed connecting with the congregation. We returned to the hotel afterward for a restful night.

#### Thursday, May 1 – School Concert & Hospital Ministry

After loading the buses at 8:00am, we traveled to Lake County Christian School in Waukegan. Despite heavy traffic, we arrived in good spirits. Students set up quickly and gave a memorable concert, with favorites including *Agony* by Jack and Jon and *Pirates of the Caribbean* by Platinum Bells.

For lunch, we stopped at Culver's, Wendy's, and Popeyes—and the Culver's manager praised our students. We then headed to City of Hope Cancer Center for the Day of Prayer service. The Pastor shared the hospital's mission to care for mind, body, and spirit. Our music at the 2:30pm program deeply moved patients, families, and staff. Many expressed heartfelt appreciation.

We ended the day with dinner and shopping at Gurnee Mills Outlet Mall, then enjoyed hotel activities like swimming and games.

#### Friday, May 2 – Sightseeing & Symphony

We braved traffic to visit Willis Tower. While clouds were low at first, they lifted, giving us stunning views from the 103rd floor. Students enjoyed stepping out onto the glass Ledge and shopping for souvenirs.

Next, we spent a fun afternoon at Enchanted Castle playing arcade games, go-carts, mini-golf, and laser tag. Dinner was a Chicago must—Giordano's deep dish pizza!

In the evening, we attended a Chicago Symphony Orchestra concert at Symphony Center. Our terrace-level seats gave us an up-close view of conductor Klaus Mäkelä. Dvorak's *Symphony No. 7* was a highlight.

#### Saturday, May 3 – Zoo, City Sights & Pacific Garden Mission

We left the hotel at 9:15am and visited Lincoln Park Zoo a fantastic, free attraction. Students enjoyed the animals and great weather. Then we navigated road closures from the Polish Constitution Day parade to visit the Bean sculpture and Buckingham Fountain (which, curiously, wasn't running). Students explored downtown before heading to Pacific Garden Mission.

At PGM, founded in 1877, we attended a live taping of the radio show *Unshackled*—which tells the story of how the Lord radically changes the lives of people. After dinner in the cafeteria, we participated in an evening service. Our students

*(Continued on page 10)*





*(Ministry Trip, continued from page 9)*

sang well, and the pastor's message from Mark 10 on blind Bartimaeus was a powerful reminder to call out to Jesus in faith. Several men from Pacific Garden shared powerful testimonies of God's work in their lives and the entire visit made a big impact on our students.

After a snack stop at Target, we shared testimonies at the hotel. Students reflected on how the tour—and especially the ministry experiences—impacted them. We also had the opportunity to sing for our hotel manager and front desk staff, who were incredibly kind throughout our stay.

### Sunday, May 4 – Final Ministry & Journey Home

We packed up early and departed for Rochelle, IL. The church there had recently lost their pastor, and we were glad to be an encouragement to them. The students performed wonderfully, and Mr. Bruffey's devotional was well received. After a sub sandwich lunch provided by the church, we began our journey home.

### Reflections & Thanks

This trip was an incredible mix of service, spiritual growth, fun, and fellowship. Our students demonstrated flexibility, maturity, and enthusiasm throughout. We are deeply grateful for our chaperones and drivers—Miss Harmon, Mrs. Peal, Mr. & Mrs. Fredericksen, Mr. Bruffey, Mr. Litkey, and Mr. Muhr—for their dedication and care.

Thank you to all the parents, donors, FBCS, and FBC for your generous support. Please take time to ask your student about the ministry opportunities—at the churches, Christian school, City of Hope, and especially Pacific Garden Mission. We pray these moments made the songs they sang really come alive and left a lasting impact on their hearts. ~ Mr. Levi Kolwinski





## Exploring Chicago!





## Spring Elementary Field Trips ~ Museum & Zoo Fun!

On Wednesday, April 16th, the **K4 and K5 classes** went to the MN Children's Museum in St. Paul. They had a fun day climbing, playing, imagining, and getting out a lot of energy. The museum offered so many different areas to explore. There was a studio that allowed the students to paint pictures and hang them to dry. Another area that the students enjoyed included a fire station, post office, food stand, and vet's office. They loved pretending to be workers in each of these areas. The students were also given an opportunity to choose a scene and play in front of a green screen making it look like they were physically in that chosen scene. In another area, the students learned about air pressure in a fun and interesting way by using a ping pong ball launcher. Many of the students liked the water area which included a car wash, but the favorite place to be was the four-story climbing area that included a big slide. Overall, the day was full of fun, and many happy memories were made.

~ Mrs. Char Miller



On Thursday, May 8th, the **Second grade classes** went on a field trip to Brookview Park for some play time on the playground equipment and lunch at the picnic shelter. From there we left for Mill City Museum in Minneapolis which rises eight stories within the limestone ruins of the Washburn A. Mill, a National Historic Landmark on the riverfront. Our first activity was the Flour Tower Show. On a large elevator, we went up and down to different floors as they talked and showed us how the flour mill worked and what happened many years ago. From there, we went to the top observation deck to look over the Mississippi River and St. Anthony's Falls and take group photos.

One of the most exciting parts of the field trip is going down the glass elevator outside the museum, which is what we did



On May 9th, the **First grade class** took a fun and exciting field trip to Como Zoo! We got to see lots of amazing animals such as giraffes, monkeys, and lions, and we learned so much just by walking around and watching them. One of the best parts of the day was a special class called *Grow with Como*, where we learned all about plants—how they grow, what they need to live, and why they are important for animals and people. It was a great adventure, and we had so much fun learning and exploring with our classmates. ~ Mrs. Kaycee Leanger



next. Following that, we went to the baking lab where we ground flour and enjoyed a short bread cookie. Next, we watched their movie, *Minneapolis in 19 Minutes Flat*. We then had time to explore the galleries to see the 19th century flour milling machines, a huge stove and dinner table outfitted to feed a wheat harvest crew, trace the journey of wheat from farm to market and put together a big box puzzle. A favorite activity for the second graders was experienced last ... learning and playing in the water lab. Our field trip was on a beautiful May day just perfect for park fun and journey downtown! ~ Mrs. Diane Davis







The **Third grade classes** had a great day at the Minnesota Zoo on May 16th! We were uncertain of what the weather would be like for us, but God gave us a dry morning through lunch time, allowing us to do all the outside activities. We then moved indoors to the many exhibits to see inside while it rained in the afternoon. Everyone had a great time!

We enjoyed seeing prairie dogs, camels, penguins, seals, tigers, and more! Neriah was even able to participate in a show and have a bird land on her hand! Other students were able to touch sting rays and a type of shark in the touch pools! We enjoyed remembering all we had learned in science class about the different characteristics of animals and the special way God has made each one.  
~ Mrs. Hannah Macalus

On May 6th, the **Fourth grade class** took a field trip to the MN Science Museum Omnitheater and the Mississippi River National Headquarters. We started our day by watching *Blue Whales* at the Omnitheater and learned many interesting things. Did you know they eat the calorie equivalent of 80,000 hamburgers every day?

Before heading down to the river's park headquarters, we enjoyed a snack break on the upper deck overlooking the Mississippi. Afterward, the students toured the Mississippi River National Headquarters and completed a ranger handbook making them junior rangers. They even received honorary badges! The day ended with a picnic lunch at Harriet Island where the class enjoyed a sunny day on the playground before heading back to school. Fun was had by all! ~ Mrs. Jeanine Cheek



The **Fifth grade class** went on a field trip to the Science Museum of MN on May 6th. The class began their field trip by checking out the various exhibits at the entrance. One of them, the Mississippi River Visitors Center, had several different activities the kids enjoyed. The entire floor showcased an aerial view of greater Minneapolis, and we all had fun finding the locations of our homes and the school.

Moving on to the bigger exhibits on Level 5, we explored more about the Mississippi River, saw the giant astronaut, and saw the news anchor desk where, of course, the boys and girls had to do their own versions of televised news. What a hoot!

After lunch, we visited levels 3 and 4 with a variety of exhibits about the human body, dinosaurs, and how things work. The "Sports-ology" exhibit was a huge hit... it's not everyday that you get to try and race a T-Rex! We ended our trip at the Musical Stairs, the perfect place to make a lot of noise before heading back to school. All in all, it was a fun filled day for the fifth grade class! ~ Mrs. Tarah Shrader



## Varsity Girls Soccer Season Recap

After graduating a large group of seniors who had been anchoring our team for many years, this year we found ourselves to be a young team, after years of being a team with lots of experience. Even though that change happened, we still experienced growth and success in both our Jr. High and Varsity programs. This year, we also saw the expansion of our soccer league as we became part of the new MCAC league, which included many more teams and more competition. Due to graduating so many seniors last year, we brought up three 8th graders to help fill our roster. They fit in very well helping out the team, and we expect them to anchor for our team for years to come.

Our seniors, Sophia Morrell (GK), Addie Farish (MF) and Sydney Weisser (MF), led in all kinds of ways on the field. From defense, to scoring, to exemplifying our work ethic—they did it all for us. We were led in scoring by freshman Lauren Stephens who had a strong season at the striker position. Defensively, we were led by our fab defensive four: Ava Fure, Anja Brombacher, Lily Williams and sweeper Megan Page. They played extremely well together, covering for each other and stopping many offensive attacks from the opposing teams. Thankfully, they will all be back next year!

We won a couple of games early in the season, and we were seeded #4 going into the MCAC tournament at our home field. We played our first game against Lake Region and scored with 2 minutes to go in the game to tie it up 1-1 on a goal by Sydney Weisser. What a celebration that was!! We then won in a shootout with a goal by Lauren Stephens and multiple saves by Sophia Morrell. We ended up taking 4th place out of eight teams in the tournament following a couple more hard fought battles ending in close losses that weekend.

Thank you to the parents and fans for all your support of the Warrior Varsity Women's Soccer program!! ~ *Coach Jeremy Stephens*

Addie Farish and Sophia Morrell were the team Captains. Sophia earned both an MCAC All-Conference Team award and All-Tournament Team award. Addie Farish earned an MCAC All-Conference Team award, and Sydney Weisser earned an MCAC All-Tournament Team award. FBCS Warrior Awards given out by the coaches were as follows: Defensive Player of the Year—Anja Brombacher; Golden Glove Award—Sophia Morrell; Warrior Award—Sydney Weisser and Addie Farish.

*(Action Shots of our 3 Seniors are below)*



#17—Sydney Weisser, Midfielder



#7—Addie Farish, Midfielder



#0—Sophia Morrell, Goalkeeper





## JH Girls Soccer Season Recap

This year's theme verses for the JH Girls Soccer Team were Galatians 5:22-23, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law."*

The JH girls did an amazing job supporting and encouraging one another both on and off the field. It wasn't an easy year, with several challenges along the way, but they never gave up and were always desiring and striving to play better. Our eighth grade players, Clara, Rebekah, and Taya, will be greatly missed next year as they move up to the Varsity level.

At the girls' final game this season, I acknowledged the three players who I felt stood out the most this season. I am so very proud of this year's JH Girls

Soccer Team and the hard work they put forth this year, and look forward to next year! Thanks to all who came out and supported us this year! ~ Coach Tarah Shrader

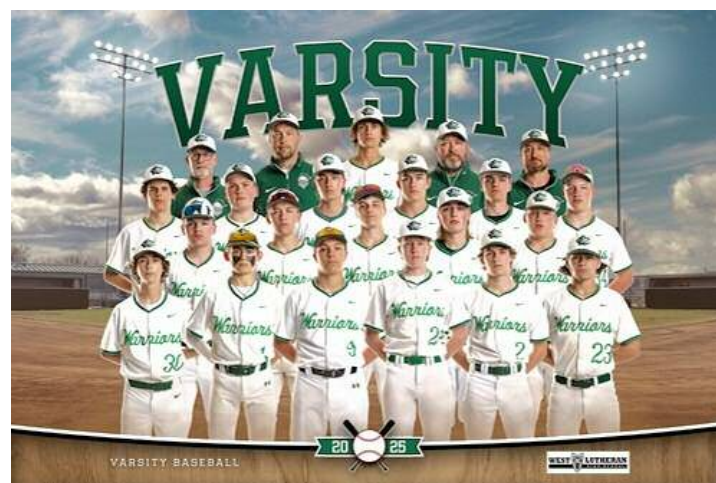
Warrior Awards: Grace Zhou—Most Improved Player; Bryna McLeish—Most Valuable Player; and Clara Morrell—Christian Athlete award.



## Warrior Co-op JV Baseball Season Recap

The Warriors JV & Varsity Baseball Teams had inconsistent results on the field this year, but their improvement was obvious. Highlights included the Spring Training trip to Kansas City and a big win over Section 4AA leader St. Agnes. The team was greatly impacted by the participation of Tyler Stephens, Titus Emslie, and John Goshgarian from Fourth Baptist.

John earned the Offensive Player of the Year on the Junior Varsity Team, while Tyler earned the Most Valuable Player award on Junior Varsity Team. Both players spent time with the Varsity team as well. We thank these boys for their great contributions to the program! ~ Coach Steve Gurgel





## Senior Trip to The Wilds of North Carolina & Gatlinburg, TN



### Senior Trip ~ May 11—18, 2025

**Sunday**—Our flight left on time and we landed about 11:30pm (EST). We ended up having to wait a little for the mini bus, but it arrived around 12:30am. We arrived at the hotel about 1:00am and got some much needed sleep.

**Monday**—We enjoyed sleeping in and with only having a 2.5 hr. drive to The Wilds decided to take our time getting there. We stopped at a few unexpected places (Dunkin in a BP gas station, Shoe Show and Rose's Discount Store). Our lunch stop (Chick-fil-A of course) was followed by a quick run in to Wal-Mart for some towels for rafting). We finally arrived to The Wilds about 5 hours after we left the hotel. Sophia commented, "This is the longest shortest trip ever," but we had a great time winding our way through the mountains. After checking in at camp, the kids settled into their cabins. We later had dinner, free time, the evening service (Colossians 1), more free time, and eventually back to the cabins for some much needed sleep.

**Tuesday**—After breakfast and morning chapel (Colossians 2), we had what the camp calls "God and I" time, quietly reflecting

on the morning chapel and discussing practical application. Our group then had the opportunity to go on the zipline this morning over "4th Falls."

We hiked to 4th Falls this afternoon and the kids enjoyed swimming under the falls. An evening chapel followed.

**Wednesday**—We had a beautiful sunny day today to enjoy some whitewater rafting! After an early breakfast, we drove about 2.5 hours to Wildwater Nantahala Rafting near Bryson City, NC, where we were outfitted with water shoes, life jackets, and oars and then drove to a drop-off spot to raft about an hour down the Nantahala River.

Pastor Jeremy guided the boat dubbed "Doug" and Tony guided "The Quack." No one fell out! We had a great time together and enjoyed laughing. The Wilds were kind enough to provide us with a couple of great rafting





photos! After lunch, we drove back to camp for some all-camp competition games, dinner, evening chapel, then some much needed sleep!

The evening message was from Romans and centered on the foundations of the Gospel. It was encouraging to hear the truth of why Jesus is our greatest need and be reminded of our dependence on God as His children.

**Thursday**—We woke to a beautiful sunny day! After breakfast and morning service, we spent the morning playing spike ball, mini-golf and other camp activities. Several in our group got to go on the Giant Swing! We spent afternoon free time playing sand volleyball. Some of us went to the gym, the lake and most of us cooled down with ice cream and a stroll through the general store.



We had a surprise visit for Les and Deb Leith this evening

and it was wonderful to see them! Deb taught several of our seniors when they were in fifth grade.

The evening service was impactful as we heard a message on Endurance from Hebrews 12:1-3. That evening, the seniors shared testimonies about the week and what they were challenged/encouraged with and how God has been working in their lives.

**Friday**—we packed the mini-bus, ate an early breakfast and after the seniors visiting and exchanging phone #'s with new friends from camp, we hit the road to Tennessee to rest for a couple days at an AirBnB.

Our first stop about an hour on the road was at a coffee shop, then after filling up with gas (there's a story there ... IYKYK!), we drove a couple more hours to Gatlinburg, TN to eat, walk and shop! We drove to Wal-Mart to get groceries for our 2-day stay at the AirBnB; Mrs. Farish and Mrs. Fure were the master planners and shoppers for all the food, snacks and drinks the kids would devour. While they shopped, the Stephens played a game of hide-and-seek with the seniors: first one to find the Stephens got their favorite snack. This provided about 30 minutes of adventure before Tony won the game! We arrived at the rental home about 4pm, Jon did a vlog tour, and the kids enjoyed exploring the fun features of the home. After doing some laundry, enjoying a pizza dinner and swimming, we settled in for popcorn and a movie and got some much needed sleep.

**Saturday**—we slept in! Yay! Mrs. Farish kindly made pancakes for breakfast. The Stephens got the day "off" for Pastor Jeremy's birthday and headed back to Gatlinburg for most of the day. The seniors spent their day at the community pool, lazy river, pickleball court, sunbathing, relaxing and of course, eating snacks. We enjoyed dinner together (thanks again to the amazing Mrs. Farish and Mrs. Fure for cooking!), played some games, sang karaoke, went swimming in the basement pool, devoured s'mores and settled in for a final night... complete with more snacks!

**Sunday**—we woke up and tried to eat as much leftover food as possible! We packed up with the goal of leaving by 9:45am (to avoid a late fee) and headed the 4 hours towards Charlotte. We stopped in Asheville at a local Brazilian steakhouse where the kids were treated with a full churrasco meal. Boy, were they happy! As one student said, "selling mozzarella sticks was worth it" for this meal! With full tummies, we hit the road to the airport, checked in and waited for our flight. We were delayed a bit getting home, but by 10pm, we were back on our FBCS bus heading to school.

Thank you for your prayers for our seniors and sponsors! We are grateful for your support of the Class of 2025! They truly had an impactful week at The Wilds and grew closer to God and each other during this time away. ~ Mrs. Sarah Stephens





## Special Events at FBCS

### A Furry Show-and-Tell

Alpacas and a llama at school? On Friday, May 16th, we had some special visitors of the four-legged variety! Laura Treschel, who was formerly be an animal caretaker at the Minnesota Zoo, is also a member of Fourth Baptist Church. She owns a llama herself and him as well as a couple of his "friends" — two alpacas that Ms. Trechsel also boards for their owners. She brought them by school to the surprise and amusement of our students and staff! What a unique and special "show and tell" event! ~Alison French

### S'mores Day!

On Friday, May 2nd, the Maintenance Dept. hosted a S'mores Day for our students in K4—8th grades while the Senior High was off on their Music Ministry Trip. The crisp weather was perfect for a fire in the fire pits too! It was a neat "out-of-the-ordinary" event for all! Thanks to Ben Coulson, Lori Gustafson and Larry Landin for this fun time and sweet treat! ~AF



### Senior Vocal Showcase

Jack Fure and Jon Kolacz, both talented vocalists and actors in local theater groups, put together a showcase event on Thursday, May 22nd, highlighting their vocal repertoire from the past several years in theater and MACS fine arts events. The audience was treated to an evening full of charm and wit as these two young men emceed their own event, performing musical numbers ranging from classical theater to Disney character songs, to sacred songs, with some of their pieces performed individually and some they sang together as duets. They stepped into character with costume and props for several of their whimsical numbers, which proved to be quite entertaining, and brought the audience to laughter. In a more serious tone, Jack and Jon each gave their personal testimony of salvation before singing a couple of sacred songs, which were very moving. These young men provided us in attendance with a very enchanting evening indeed, and we trust that they will continue to use their gifts and talents for the Lord in the future! ~AF



### Senior Night Fundraiser Event

Friday, May 11th, was the final fundraiser event for the Class of 2025! The seniors hosted a family fun night beginning with a spaghetti dinner, then carnival games and balloon animals (a Morrell hidden talent!) for the elementary students, "pay-to-play" bubble soccer and pie-a-senior-in-the-face for the grand finale! Our Administrator, Pastor Jared Page, even became a victim of the pie-in-the-face event, as his daughters piled a plate of whipped cream extra high for him! The seniors thought the bubble soccer was so much fun, they chose to purchase a set for the school to use in the future. ~AF





## Kindergarten Graduation 2025

On Tuesday evening, May 20, 2025, we celebrated with twenty-nine families as their kindergarten children graduated. Not only did we see what they learned, but we were also able to see what they can do, even as children, to serve God and others. Proverbs 20:11 says, "Even a child is known by his doings." We learned that not only can a child read and do math, but he can also be a help to others, memorize God's Word, be an example, and tell others about Jesus.

During the program, we watched a one-minute video of the students in their classroom reading groups. They sang several songs, including one that had five different parts sung at the same time! We watched as some of the students also did sign language while singing one of their songs.



Pastor Matt Morrell gave a challenging and encouraging devotional. The highlight, however, was the actual graduation exercise with the students in their caps and gowns. Pastor Page highlighted each student before awarding them their diploma. Mrs. Miller and Miss Page were so pleased with how well the students did and will miss them greatly! But we know that God has a plan for them, and we all look forward to watching them as they continue to grow and serve. ~Mrs. Char Miller



## 6th Grade Celebrates Last Day of School with McDonald's

Who doesn't like a short, fun adventure to finish off a year of hard work? Sixth graders do, so they laced up their walking shoes and enjoyed a quick walk on a beautiful day in May over to McDonald's for a sweet treat and ... French fries! They impressed the McDonald's workers and patrons with great behavior and politeness. Well done, sixth grade!

~Mrs. Sheila McLeish





FOURTH QUARTER 2024-25	All "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
First Grade	Owen Byers Bella Eggleton Quintin Levang Charlie Quinn Stella Schindelholz Porter Schwartzenburg	Ellie Damyan Sebastian Golodneac Lennon Langum Kyrylo Postaichuk Anna Zhukouski	Alexa Brutskiy Lincoln Conover Sevyn Daniels Mirabella Kifyak Timothy Manoila Nana Nyarko Ruby Strong
Second Grade	Roman Bodrug Asher Bruder Wilson Campbell Mira Damyan Mila Demchenko Lily Eggleton Kristen Goshgarian Oliver Hanks Daniel (DJ) Jean-Louis Caspian Jeppeson Anna Kachula Amelia Kappel Carson Kolwinska Abigail Macalus Alexa Miezwa Daniel Nsameh Adelina Poroseci Wesley Rathbun Evangeline Shrader Addison Terlouw	Paton Blazosky Sarah Damyan Timothy Loghinov Karina Petrashov Santiago Skurat Yefim Yeremiya	Davyd Veremchuk
Third Grade	Adam Babcock Micah Bruder Caleb Caasi Luke Chihak Peter Levang Maxim Lipinskiy Everly Quinn Maxwell Schindelholz Hudson Schwartzenburg Neriah Shelton	Margaret Brutskiy Gage Byers Eva Damyan Gabriela Damyan Ezekiel Li Aurora Rathbun Anthony Zhukouski	Brecken Felt Octavian Golodneac Ophelia Kifyak Isabella Korovin Kayda Mendoza-Tamayo Daryna Postaichuk Amelia Sisam Joshua Strong Daniel Tkach
Fourth Grade	Leyla Blazosky Blake Coulson Eva Jenkins Emmaline Macalus	Matthew Aleckson Zoey Jean-Louis Blessa Johnson Avonlea Laumann Rhys McLeish Michael Olaru Lucia Skurat Michael Totimeh	Daniel Chuprin Emma Damyan Asher Delich Vanessa Diaz Calero Aria Felt Isaac Leanger Calvin Levang Max Montgomery Ezekiel Nsameh Shaela Zeah
Fifth Grade	Kate Kovalchuk	Ava Blazosky Leah Damyan Michelle Olaru Robinson Smith	Isabella Agness Mark Brutskiy Jackson Byers Zachary Demchenko Harrison Kappel Ammiel Rylka Isaiah Shrader Thomas Wheaton Jace Wicklund



FOURTH QUARTER 2024-25	ALL "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
Sixth Grade	Margot Levang Viviana Skurat	Belinda Aleckson Garrett Coulson Roman Kachula	Kimberly Arroyo Josiah Bruder Daniel Damyan Jacob Damyan Sofia Lipinskiy Elijah Rudolph Reuben Totimeh Tianci (Grace) Zhou
Seventh Grade	Ashley Blazosky Daniella Damyan Elise Pacencu	Elias Brombacher David Caasi Liesl Campbell Chloe Johnson Katelyn Kolwinska Allison Kovalchuk Alexis LaVasseur Bryna McLeish Naomi Pacencu	Hunter Delich Jacob Demchenko Alessandra Mendoza-Tamayo Morgan Nixon Julia Raisanen Benjamin Villar
Eighth Grade		Ziqian (Isaac) Gao Allison Leanger	Dima Brutskiy Isabelle Chuprin Sarah Goshgarian Nathan Kauffman Rebekah Landin Alexandra Lipinskiy Clara Morrell Gabriel Shrader Taya Wall
Ninth Grade	Ava Fure Zhenghan (John) Huang Jizhen (Jila) Peng Claire Vikander	Isaiah Caasi Star Delich Christian Kolwinska Sara Sousa Lauren Stephens	Anna Damyan Rebeka Damyan
Tenth Grade	Karina Anderson Josiah Combs Haihang (Kai) Guo Yiwen Huang	Deborah Dahl John Goshgarian Nikita Lipinskiy Joseph Litkey Asher Zderchuk	Gretchen Campbell Ethan Coulson Israel Keyzer Brianna Treptau
Eleventh Grade	Eli Villar	Tava McLeish Megan Page Grant Vikander Lillian Williams	Elena Arroyo Anja Brombacher Blake Delich Carlos Flodstrom Qilun (Aaron) Huang Giselle Legoff Ethan Markgraf Mialia (Jenny) Nayrath Jinwen (Jane) Qin Tyler Stephens
Twelfth Grade	Jack Fure	Adelynn Farish Jonathan Kolacz Megan Lewellen Sophia Morrell Sydney Weisser	Antonio Eppers Cody Mercado Lexi Owens Emma Payne