

FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Warrior Quarterly Newsletter

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Why Christian Education? Part 4

Over the last three newsletters, I've attempted to tell the story of why Fourth Baptist Christian School plays such a large part in your family's life. I've shared my personal journey of teaching in a public school prior to my Christian school experiences. I've provided some key historical aspects of that lead us to today's version of Christian education and showed that the purpose of Christian education is not just to offer an alternative to public schools, but to provide a place to foster Christlikeness in all our students.

To do so, faith and learning are integrated every day, and students are challenged to recognize that faith and education walk hand in hand. Spiritual growth is not an afterthought but an intentional product of our system of education.

work in progress, and we will continue to work toward a school atmosphere that glorifies God in all aspects.

However, the journey of growth and development doesn't end when the school day is over. It continues at home, where the values and principles taught at school can be reinforced and lived out daily. As parents, you play a crucial role in this ongoing process. By supporting and promoting these values in your homes, you can create a consistent and nurturing environment that empowers your children to thrive.

Supporting Character Development at Home:

- Encourage discussions about virtues such as integrity, kindness, and responsibility. Share stories from your own experiences that highlight these values.
- Reinforce positive behavior by acknowledging and celebrating your child's efforts to make ethical choices and show compassion to others.

Fostering Community and Fellowship:

- Create opportunities for your family to engage in community service or church activities together. These shared experiences can strengthen your family bonds and instill a sense of belonging and purpose.
- Foster open communication within your family. Regularly share your thoughts, challenges, and triumphs, and encourage your children to do the same. This helps build a supportive and trusting family environment.

Nurturing Spiritual Growth:

- Make time for family devotions or prayer. Reading and discussing Scripture together



Finally, in the last newsletter, I urged you to see how character development and moral foundation training are not buzzwords but actions at the core of who we are. Your student engages in age-appropriate conversations about contemporary issues from a Christian perspective! And, almost as a bonus, your student does not accomplish this work on their own! The students at Fourth Baptist Christian School are part of a vibrant community intentionally designed to foster growth and spiritual encouragement. This is a

Inside this Issue

Class of 2024 Graduation	3
SH Fine Arts Festival	4
Spring Concerts	6
Senior Trip	10
Elementary Field Trips	12
Kindergarten Graduation	13
Spelling Bee	13
Spring Sports Recap	14
Staffing Changes	15
New Athletic Conference	16
Honor Roll	17

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

(Continued on page 2)

(Why Christian Education, continued from page 1)

can deepen your family's faith and understanding of God's word.

- Encourage your children to develop their own personal relationship with God through prayer, reflection, and participation in church activities.

By actively engaging in these practices, you not only support your child's education but also model the importance of living out these values in everyday life. Your involvement and commitment can make a significant difference in your child's development and in the strength of our school community.

Together, as a united front of educators and parents, we can ensure that our children are equipped with the character, community spirit, and spiritual foundation they need to navigate the world with confidence and grace. Thank you for being a vital part of this journey and for your unwavering support in promoting the values that make Christian education so impactful. ~Mr. Andrew Broere



Jr./Sr. Banquet at Rush Creek Golf Club

Once again, the beautiful Rush Creek Golf Club in Maple Grove was the venue for our Jr./Sr. Banquet on April 22, 2024. The junior class emceed a fun evening with a highlight being the recreation of silly photographs taken over the years. The meal was delicious fried chicken and ham. Mr. Monroe gave the challenge. Morgen Markgraf was on hand to take photos of the students in various groupings both before and after the dinner program. Everyone enjoyed this dress-up event celebrating our seniors as they finish high school and prepare to move on to the next step in their life's journey.



Congratulations to the Class of 2024

On Friday, May 24, 2024, Fourth Baptist Christian School graduated 24 seniors as the Class of 2024. The class earned scholarships totaling over \$450,000. Of these 24 graduates, fourteen will be attending Christian colleges, six will attend secular universities, and one will begin an apprenticeship.

Our graduates will pursue the following majors: **Biblical Studies**; **Biological Sciences** (*General Biology, Organismal Biology, Kinesiology, Nursing, Zoo & Wildlife Biology*); **Business** (*Accounting, Business Administration, General Business, Healthcare Administration, Marketing*); **Communications**; **Education** (*Elementary Education, Secondary World History Education*); and other majors including **Architecture**, **Commercial Aviation & Aviation Management**, **General Contracting**, **Information Technology**, and **Mechanical Engineering**.

This class had the distinction of having 12 of the 24 graduates be considered “lifers” here at FBCS. A “lifer” is a student who began their schooling here by the first grade. As a subset of that group, six of them actually began attending school here together in K4 (Emily Chuprin, Nathan French, Melissa Kauffman, Shaun Larson, Clara & JoJo Rieschl.)

These graduates were also academic high achievers—18 of them qualified to wear the gold honor cord, signifying a GPA of 3.4 or higher. Joy Okafo was Valedictorian with a GPA of 4.10 and Clara Rieschl was Salutatorian with a GPA of 4.084.

More than a few members of this class earned enough college credits through our Honors Bible and other PSEO courses, to cut a year or more off their college career, saving thousands of dollars. Several students also took advantage of the CLEP testing program, and successfully tested out of college classes, while receiving full college credit.

Clara’s speech was a humorous introduction to the members of the Class of ‘24 with the theme—what if this class was participating in the summer Olympics in Paris? What would their role be? Joy’s Valedictorian address took on a more serious tone as she challenged her classmates to focus on things that have eternal value.

Beautiful and meaningful music was a part of this ceremony as well ... the senior high choir joined the graduates to sing “God of Heaven,” and the senior class sang “He Leadeth Me,” accompanied by senior music student Noelle Anderson on the violin. Dr. Brett Williams gave a commencement address reminding the graduates to be faithful in the little things.

Joy Okafo was awarded the Legacy Scholarship of \$1,000 from the Class of ‘83 for her community volunteer work, and she was also mentioned as a National Merit Commended Student. Joy also completed an Associate of Arts degree from the University of Northwestern with all of her PSEO credits.

As a representative for the senior class, Nathan French presented the money remaining in the class account as a class gift to the school to go towards the purchase of hallway clocks in the secondary classroom wing. The gymnasium was set up with a table for each graduate to decorate and display their personal photos, and many people stayed after the ceremony to give their congratulations to the graduates.

This class will be greatly missed here at Fourth Baptist Christian School. They showed leadership by staying committed to our music program and Warrior athletics. We pray God’s blessings upon them as they depart these doors and go on whatever God has planned for them, and we pray they will live a life of faithfulness to God and His Word.

~ Mrs. Alison French



Joy Okafo gave the Valedictorian Address



Clara Rieschl gave the Salutatorian Address



Back row: Jacob Combs, Shaun Larson, David Damyan, Nathan French, Isaiah Roman, Henry Litkey, Carsten Markgraf, Isaac Caasi, Josiah Brombacher, Matthew Herrick

Middle row: Sage McQueary, Alyssa Stephens, Lillian Broerer, Joy Okafo, Johannah Rieschl, Julia Muhr, Emily Chuprin
Front row: Sofia Pullis, Clara Rieschl, Greta Gustafson, Melissa Kauffman, Sarah Jacob, Kristin Victor (not pictured: Grace Goshgarian)

SH Fine Arts Festival

FBCS hosted our annual SH MACS Fine Arts Festival on Friday, April 12. The goal of the Festival is to help to further develop our students' God-given talents and abilities as they perform for God's glory. There were seven schools and over 300 students participating in the Festival in areas of music, photography, art, home-ec, science fair, and academic testing. A fantastic group of judges helped us that day to listen and evaluate each performance. Students were given verbal feedback from the judges as well as written feedback on the judging forms. Much learning was gained from the valuable insights of the judges that day and we are so thankful for their help. The full festival results for all schools can be found at:

www.mnchristianschools.org/fine-arts/

Our FBCS students worked very hard in preparing for their solo or ensemble selections and we are grateful for the help of Mrs. Bruffey, Mrs. Peal, Miss Harmon, to assist me in coaching them. Almost all of our soloists and groups received Excellent and Superior ratings. Our art students led by Mrs. Terry McLeish and our academic testing students also received many high ratings and placings.

Congratulations to our students and THANK YOU, students and teachers, for making our Fine Arts Festival a great success! We are grateful for the talents and abilities which God has gifted to each one of you, and we pray you will use them for God's glory. ~ Mr. Levi Kolwinska



SH MACS Fine Arts: Music - Instrumental

Band	SH Band	1st	Superior
Handbell Choir	Fourth Platinum	1st	Superior
Handbell Choir	Fourth Gold	2nd	Excellent
Lg. Instrumental Ensemble	Fourth Brass	3rd	Superior
Lg. Instrumental Ensemble	Fourth Saxophones		Superior
Lg. Instrumental Ensemble	Fourth Woodwinds		Superior
Percussion Ensemble	Brombacher/ Combs/ Emslie/ Farish/ French/ Kolacz/ Okafo	1st	Superior
Sm. Instrumental Ensemble	Goshgarian/Johnson/Litkey/ Coulson/Stephens/Arroyo		Superior
Sm. Instrumental Ensemble	George Damyan/Mark Manoila		Excellent
String Solo	Noelle Anderson (violin)	1st	Superior
String Solo	Karina Anderson (cello)	2nd	Superior
Woodwind Solo	Mark Manoila (saxophone)		Superior

SH MACS Fine Arts: Music - Piano

Classical Piano Solo	Sophia Morrell	1st	Superior
Classical Piano Solo	Ethan Markgraf	3rd	Superior
Sacred Piano Solo	Ruby Celt		Excellent

SH MACS Fine Arts: Music - Vocal

Choir	SH Choir	1st	Superior
Choral Group	Mixed Ensemble	1st	Superior
Large Vocal Ensemble	Fourth Ladies Ensemble	2nd	Superior
Large Vocal Ensemble	Fourth Men's Ensemble		Superior
Vocal Quartet	Addie Farish/Jack Fure/ Jonathan Kolacz/Sofia Pullis	2nd (tie)	Superior
Vocal Quartet	Jacob Combs/Nathan French/ Shaun Larson/Carsten Markgraf	2nd (tie)	Superior
Vocal Trio	Jack Fure/ Jon Kolacz/Nathan Damyam	1st	Superior
Vocal Trio	Noelle Anderson/ Lilly Broere/ Joy Okafo	3rd	Superior
Vocal Trio	Aaron Huang/Ethan Markgraf/Tyler Stephens		Superior
Vocal Trio	Sage McQueary/Sophia Morrell/ Megan Page		Excellent
Vocal Duet	Jack Fure/Sofia Pullis	2nd	Superior
Vocal Duet	Karina & Noelle Anderson		Excellent
Vocal Duet	Charles & Joy Okafo		Excellent
Vocal Duet	Isaac Caasi/Addie Farish		Excellent
Male Vocal Solo	Jack Fure	1st	Superior
Male Vocal Solo	Jon Kolacz	2nd	Superior
Male Vocal Solo	Ethan Coulson		Excellent
Female Vocal Solo	Lilly Broere		Excellent
Female Vocal Solo	Lexi Owens		Excellent

SH MACS Academic Testing:

Bible: New Testament	Joy Okafo	1st place
Bible: Old Testament	Josiah Brombacher	2nd place
Biology	Tava McLeish	1st place
Chemistry	Jack Fure	3rd place
Music Theory	Sophia Morrell	2nd place
Physics	Isaac Caasi	2nd place
Political Science/Economics	Nathan French	1st place
Physical Science Project	Tava McLeish	1st place

SH MACS Fine Arts: Arts & Crafts, Photography

Acrylic Painting	Anastasia Lipinskiy	2nd	Good
Mixed Media	Tava McLeish	1st	Superior
Mixed Media	Anastasia Lipinskiy	2nd	Superior
Mixed Media	Melissa Kauffman	3rd	Superior
Drawing: Monochromatic	Isaiah Roman		Excellent
Drawing: Monochromatic	Karina Anderson		Excellent
Drawing: Monochromatic	Anja Brombacher		Good
Oil Painting	Melissa Kauffman	1st	Superior
Print Making	Tava McLeish	1st	Superior
Print Making	Elena Arroyo	2nd	Excellent
Sculpture	Melissa Kauffman	2nd	Superior
Sculpture	Anastasia Lipinskiy		Excellent
Watercolor Painting	Sarah Jacob	2nd	Excellent
Woodworking	David Damyam	1st	Superior
Animal Photography	Ruby Celt	1st	Superior
Landscape & Architecture Photo.	Henry Litkey		Superior
Landscape & Architecture Photo.	Noelle Anderson		Excellent



Elementary Spring Concert “Campfire Chorus”

First, allow me to mention our K4 & K5 music Informance classes. 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*, and even identified high and low sounds with glow sticks—a fan favorite! Mrs. Fredericksen reminded the audience of God’s gift through 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, our FBCS elementary students presented their “Campfire Chorus” concert. Our performing groups sparkled with unexpected woodland surprises. 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*.

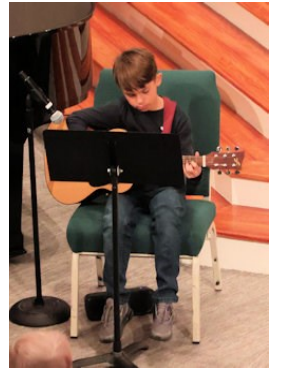
Since the camp experience wouldn’t be complete without a community sing-along, our audience joined us twice for first grade’s *Razzama Tazzama* and second grade’s *I Love the Mountains*. Fourth graders Sam Damyan, Timothy Kifyak, and Ammiel Rylka accompanied several songs with their guitars! First graders showed their early improvisation skills in *The Bear Went over the Mountain*. Second graders showed 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 capstone composition projects. Third grade sang the Japanese folk song *Hotaru Koi* with 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 called *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





Secondary Spring Concert “Musical Echoes”

The FBCS students in grades 7–12 ended our year in music with our Secondary Spring Concert on Thursday, May 9th. The SH band began the concert with *Choose Joy*, a song that featured Beethoven’s *Ode to Joy*. The JH and SH Bands combined to take the audience on a thrilling *Great Locomotive Chase* with so many fun sounds to make you really feel like the train was in the room! The JH Band then performed a song called *A+: A Precise Prelude and an Excellent March* which allowed students to actually make mistakes as they played! Even with every student playing one mistake, we still would have received a 99.99% grade when you averaged all of the notes in the song together! Their performance was an audience favorite!

After a short intermission, the SH Choir performed *Hallelu Yah* by Dan Forrest which featured seniors Josiah Brombacher and Nathan French on percussion. The choir then sang a text called *Even When He Is Silent*, a poem written by Jews that were hiding in a dark cellar for months in Cologne, Germany. Here is the text of this moving poem:

I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
I believe in love even when I feel it not.
I believe in God even when He is silent.

Our Bronze Handbells played a fun number called *Scherzetto* with some fun techniques. The Men’s Ensemble sang about President Lincoln with *O Captain, My Captain* featuring soloists Charles Okafo and Isaac Caasi. The Gold Bells played *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*, a handbell favorite written by FBCS alumnus, Josh Bauder. The Ladies Ensemble and Mixed Ensemble sang songs by composer Elaine Hagenberg including *O Love* and *Measure Me, Sky*. The Silver Bells played an arrangement of *Arkansas Traveler* as we all had “I’m bringing home my baby bumblebee”—which we learned in elementary school—running through our heads!

Our Men’s Trio of Nathan Damyán, Jack Fure, Jon Kolacz sang a stirring arrangement of *In Flander’s Fields* and we honored Mrs. Melody Bruffey for her many years of service to the music department and our ensembles. The Platinum Bells played an extremely challenging song called *Tempest* followed by the JH Choir singing an SATB arrangement of *I Will Praise You, O Lord*—quite an accomplishment to sing in four parts in junior high! We honored 26 Seniors with roses and crazy music socks and thanked them for their dedication and service in the music program at FBCS—they will be missed!

Our last two songs were the highlights of the evening. We commissioned FBCS alumnus, Dr. Josh Bauder, to write an



(Musical Echoes, continued from page 8)

arrangement for double handbell choir to honor the 25th anniversary of handbells at Fourth. He wrote an incredible piece called *Mediant Echoes* for our students and we loved performing that piece together! Many of the audience members have played handbells at the church and school and it was fun to have them stand and be recognized as we celebrate the 25th year of bells at Fourth.

The final song of the night was *Jabberwocky* which featured many of our seniors playing percussion instruments and Henry Litkey as our brave swordsman that defeats the jabberwocky! The song was full of so many sounds, actions, flying candy, sword fights, and so much more – the students loved the song and the audience enjoyed all of the drama and antics. We are thankful for our music students and are grateful for another great year in music at FBCS! ~Mr. Levi Kolwinski



Senior Trip to The Wilds and Beyond!

Day one: Twenty-four seniors and three chaperones got on a bus about 3:00am on Monday morning to head to Minneapolis/Saint Paul's Terminal 2. The Southwest staff was already waiting for us with baggage tags and our boarding passes—what an awesome sight! That saved us plenty of time to be able to get through security and to our gate with time to wander around or just fall asleep. The boys might have played an impromptu game of football and received a few smiles from passing travelers as well as security guards. The first flight to Chicago-Midway was uneventful. Students got a chance to grab breakfast: anything from doughnuts to chicken nuggets were consumed! Coffee was needed. Most of the students were awake at this point in time and were able to enjoy some “wandering around time.”

The next flight from Midway to Atlanta was delayed by an hour for a medical emergency. We got new, replacement pilots an hour after we were scheduled to fly, so that put us late arriving into Atlanta. That pushed our time schedule back a little bit as well. We did get to stop for lunch outside of Atlanta, where students had several options to choose from: Raising Cane's, Zaxby's, Burger King, Wendy's, Five Guys, Moe's, and McDonald's! Back on the road, and we got to The Wilds as dinner was winding up. We jumped into the camp orientation time, and then they had dinner waiting for us afterwards. We got to go to our cabins in time to clean up for the evening service around 8:45pm. Monday's camp service was “Walking in Christ” from Colossians 2:6-10. After cabin devotions, lights out around 11:30pm marked the end of a very long day one.

Day two started with a leisurely pace. The students headed to breakfast around 8:30am, followed by Chapel and “God and I

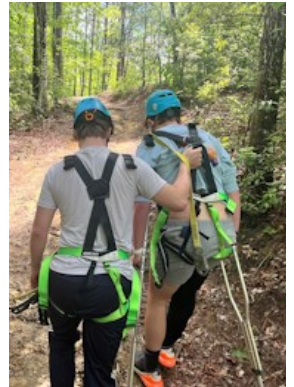
time.” This morning's chapel was

“God's Process of Change” from Ephesians 4. The morning was an activity time where students were able to experience the giant swing and the land trolley. Many opted to play soccer and enjoy the campsite, even though there was quite a bit of rain happening. The afternoon was a hike to the 2nd and 4th falls! The 4th falls is capped off by a refreshing (albeit incredibly cold) dip into the water below the falls. It was dinner time when we got back, then the evening service was “Stability in Identity” from various passages. Chapel was followed by the soccer tournament in which both teams made a good showing and at least one team made it to the semifinal round.

Day three was a long day as this was our whitewater rafting day. Students got to breakfast at 7:45am, and we were on the road by 8:00am headed to a rafting outfitters about two hours away. We arrived to a snack and more information on how to have fun but be safe in the boat. Then the students got onto another bus for another 20-minute ride to where

we were to drop in to start our trek down the river. Fourth Baptist students got into four different boats: two were guided by Wild guides and two by Mr. and Mrs. Broere. All students enjoyed their trips, but three of us fell out of our boats (or should we say we were catapulted out) — Mr. and Mrs. Broere and then Nathan French. It was cold and it rained for about 20 minutes but that didn't dampen the spirits of the students who had a blast! The return trip home was again two hours, but was interrupted by a 45 minute stop at Walmart to resupply our snacks, drinks, and other necessities, like clean shoes. Skit time and dinner followed by an evening service at 8:45pm on “What is My Greatest Need” from Romans 3 & 5.





Day four started off much like Tuesday, and the students got to breakfast at 8:30am followed by a Chapel service on "Elijah: Fear & Failure" from 1 Kings 17-19, then "God and I time." It was our turn to go on the 3rd falls zip line, which almost all students, including Shaun, participated in. What a blast! A picnic lunch on the grounds, followed by the volleyball tournament where the Fourth team of Lilly, Sage, Clara, JoJo, Alyssa, Isaac, Nathan, and Carsten won the tourney!

Day five was a traveling day, and The Wilds helped us get on the road with breakfast at 7:15am! The students brought their luggage to the vans in time for a good breakfast before we got on the road to Greenville. We stopped at the Greenville Zoo and had an enjoyable morning seeing giraffes, orangutans, and leopards among others. The group made a pit stop for lunch,

and then we were on our way to our Airbnb in Morganton, Georgia, that would be our home for the next two days. This spacious home with nine bedrooms and six bathrooms was perfect for our group of 27! All evening, the students enjoyed the pool and hot tub, along with the movie room. Shaun helped the chaperones cook hamburgers for dinner.

Day six started with an open breakfast bar of pancakes and sausage before the group toured the Bigfoot and Pinball museums before lunch in the beautiful small town of Blue Ridge. The group split up for lunch and spent some time shopping before heading back to the Airbnb for the evening.

Day seven was another traveling day, but thankfully, we got to sleep in a little. The Airbnb had to be scrubbed by 10am, and aside from some small fireworks, was mostly clean! Luggage, students, and chaperones were then piled into the vans to make the trip back to Atlanta airport for an afternoon flight home. No trip to Atlanta could be complete without lunch at The Varsity. It's an iconic spot that captures the essence of the city with its legendary fast food and vibrant atmosphere. It was a long seven days, but the students loved their time together.



~ Mr. Andrew Broere



Elementary Field Trips

The second grade field trip to Mill City Museum was planned for Thursday, May 9. However, God had a different plan for our field trip day. Our school bus wouldn't start. Our bus driver and Mr. Broere tried very hard to get it running, but unfortunately we had to cancel our field trip. We decided to have a fun and adventurous day on the school property instead, and we ended up having a great day! We played on the playground during the morning, and then we enjoyed our picnic lunch on the picnic tables under the trees by the soccer field. Of course, exploring is always fun so we explored the woods behind the school climbing on logs, finding forts and taking pictures.



We then climbed a few trees, rolled down the hills, and made forts under a couple of evergreen trees. Our favorite part of the day was our special guest, Sherlock the collie, the Morrell family dog. Sherlock let the students chase and pet him, and he even did tricks! We then went in and finished the day with a neat movie. Many of the students thought the day was better than a field trip. We explained that God's ways are always best and for some reason God wanted us to stay at school. The teachers enjoyed the day, too! To cap off the day, we were treated to ice cream sandwiches provided by the school. ~ Mrs. Diane Davis

The K4 and K5 classes enjoyed a lovely warm day exploring Como Zoo on May 16th. The students were so excited to see all the different animals, especially the polar bear, tiger, and lion. They loved taking pictures with the various animal

statues and had a blast seeing the seals and sea lions to tricks during the Seal Show. They spent the majority of the time looking at animals, but did enjoy a few minutes walking through the conservatory, looking at all the beautiful plants, and, of course, finding Chloe the sloth in her tree. ~ Mrs. Marissa Fredericksen



On May 16th, the two fourth grade classes took a field trip to Minnehaha Falls Park and Sea Life Aquarium at the Mall of America. The day began at Minnehaha Falls Park. We viewed the falls from the top and took the stairs to down to the bottom. The falls were gloriously cascading from the recent rainfalls. We hiked a bit downstream and then back up to the playground where the fourth graders burned some energy before having a picnic lunch. We then loaded the bus again to head to Sea Life Aquarium. Our visit began with a class about sea creatures. We learned all about sharks, sea horses, and jellyfish. Then we ventured through the aquarium where we saw many amazing sea creatures: several types of sharks, sleek stingrays, buoyant jellyfish, darting seahorses, and various species of beautiful fish. Everyone had a great day! ~ Mrs. Amy Pickard



Kindergarten Graduation

Twenty Kindergarten students came together on Tuesday night, May 21st to celebrate their accomplishments with over 100 family and friends.

The evening began like the start of any regular school day with prayer and pledges, followed by calendar songs which the students sing during the morning each day. Much of the program highlighted Scripture memory and songs from God’s Word. Students gave a brief look at Number Time with the song, *Skip Count*, and Lincoln Conover and Emma Duerksen read a story from one of their reading books. Isla Seymour also gave a recitation at the beginning of the song, *A Gift to You*.

Mr. Broere shared a message followed by the presentation of diplomas. The proud graduates sang a final song and then recited the poem, *Growing*. The evening concluded in the atrium with a time of fellowship around cake and punch.

Congratulations, Kindergartners, on a job well done. You’re now ready for first grade! ~ Mrs. Julie Roman



2024 Elementary Spelling Bee



The 2024 Spelling Bees were held Friday, April 26, in the Fourth Baptist Auditorium. A change for this year, we decided to do individual grade Spelling Bees for the first, second, and third graders, and eliminate the combined Spelling Bee.

Grades 1–3 Spelling Bees

1st Grade Winners

- 1st: Chago Skurat
- 2nd: Daniel Nsameh
- 3rd: Anna Kachula

Number of rounds: 7
Final word spelled correctly to win: REMIND

2nd Grade Winners

- 1st: Aurora Rathbun
- 2nd: Adam Babcock
- 3rd: Gabriela Damyán

Number of rounds: 10
Final word spelled correctly to win: ORCHESTRA

3rd Grade Winners

- 1st: John Strong
- 2nd: Eva Jenkins
- 3rd: Vanessa Diaz

Number of rounds: 21
Final word spelled correctly to win: DREADFUL



First Graders



Second Graders



Third Graders



Sixth Graders

Grades 4–6 Spelling Bee

For the upper elementary students, preliminary rounds were done within each classroom to determine the participants. Six students from each grade competed together in the combined grades 4-6 spelling bee. It took seven rounds to get to the winner; DRUDGERY was the final word spelled correctly to win.

The winners for the grades 4–6 Spelling Bee were all from 6th grade:
1st place—Neshe Blazosky; 2nd place—Daniella Damyán; 3rd place—Allison Kovalchuk

Varsity Girls Soccer Recap

It was another great year for the Lady Warriors Soccer team! The team finished with a record of 5–2–1, including winning a 2nd straight MACS state tournament in convincing fashion. During the week where our Seniors were away on Senior Trip, our younger girls played two great games, including a hard-fought draw at Cambridge Christian—while missing six starters—but falling to the Prior Lake Lady Royals. The program continues to grow both in numbers and in skill and we are grateful for all who participated.

Senior night was hard for us this year as we said goodbye to seven seniors! They will be greatly missed, as they have formed the core of our team for several years. We thank these seniors for the investment they made in the program. We are excited about the level of talent coming up behind them.

Thank you to Mrs. Stephens for finding us games and organizing our tournament this year, and thanks to all the fans who came out to support us! We look forward to more great years to come for Lady Warrior Soccer!

~ Coach Jared Page & Jeremy Stephens



Seniors, L to R: Alyssa Stephens, Sage McQueary, Clara Rieschl, JoJo Rieschl, Grace Goshgarian, Julia Muhr, Paige Emslie.



JH Girls Soccer Recap

The JH girls soccer season was such a blast! The girls enjoyed their season, winning 4 of their 6 games. Our theme verse was 1 Corinthians 10:31, and I stressed the importance that, as Christians, we are to please God in all that we do. Win or lose, it's all for God's glory. The 8th grade girls, Ava, Claire, and Lauren, will be greatly missed next year! I would like to recognize a few players who stood out during the season.

Most of the girls did an amazing job as the season progressed, but Katelyn Kolwinska was the "Most Improved Player." She played defense and did an amazing job of getting to the ball and sending it back up the field, away from our goal. Our "Most Valuable Player" was Ava Fure. She was not only our best defender, she was also an amazing leader who helped the younger girls on defense and encouraged them as they played together. The "Christian Athlete" was Sarah Goshgarian. I called her my "voice of reason." She is honest, encouraging, always had a

good attitude, and never said anything negative about anyone on the team. I am so proud of the JH girls and the hard work they put forth at practices and games. It was fun to coach them! Go Warriors! ~ Coach Tarah Shrader



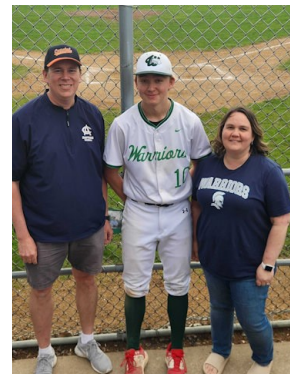
Warrior Co-op Varsity Baseball Recap

The Warriors baseball team made strides on the field this season as our program was bumped up to 2A competition. The team struggled to win close games, going 0-5 in games decided by one run, which led our team to finish 5-13 in the regular season and a 5th place conference finish.

Before his injury, captain Shaun Larson had a very successful season, posting a .472 batting average with two home runs and 15 RBIs. As a pitcher, he also struck out 33 batters in 20 innings pitched. With such a youthful team this year (both JV and Varsity), we are excited for what the future holds for the program. ~ Coach Steve Gurgel



Warrior Co-op Varsity Baseball Team, Fourth Baptist & West Lutheran



Senior Shaun Larson with parents, Paul & Sarah Larson on Senior Night

Staffing Changes for Next School Year

With the close of this school year, comes staffing changes. We are saying farewell to several teachers because of moves and other professional endeavors, and several of our staff will be in new positions come the start of next school year. We thank our teachers for the time and energy they have devoted to our students and families over the years. We pray God's blessings upon them for whatever comes next in their lives.

We bid Farewell to the following:

- **Mrs. Melody Bruffey**—JH English/Literature, Consumer Math, Yearbook, Accreditation/Curriculum Specialist
- **Mrs. Jody Faithfull**—3rd grade
- **Mr. Caleb Gehrke**—JH Bible
- **Mrs. Terry McLeish**—Art
- **Mrs. Julie Roman**—Kindergarten
- **Mr. Joseph Schueller**—SH Bible

Teachers in Different Roles for 2024-25:

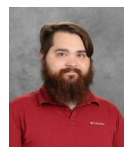
- **Mrs. Marissa Fredericksen**—K4/K5 Music only
- **Mrs. Becky Hopper**—Teacher Aide
- **Mr. Mark Monroe**—Assistant Administrator (as well as History Teacher)
- **Mrs. Amy Pickard**—Teacher Aide



Mrs. Bruffey



Mrs. Faithfull



Mr. Gehrke



Mrs. McLeish



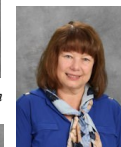
Mrs. Roman



Mr. Schueller



Mrs. Fredericksen



Mrs. Hopper



Mr. Monroe



Mrs. Pickard

New Minnesota Christian Athletic Conference (MCAC) formed

At our MACS Annual Meeting on April 12, our member schools voted unanimously to approve the creation of a new athletic league called the Minnesota Christian Athletic Conference (MCAC). This is the merging of two athletic conferences, MACS and the Christian Athletic League (CAL) into one larger athletic conference. The rationale regarding this merger is so that we can create a more competitive conference: smaller schools can play smaller schools with their own tournament at the season's end; and larger schools can play larger schools and have their own season-ending tourney as well.

The creation of a new conference will open up new doors for our schools. New relationships will be forged between schools, a stronger base of support and strength will result, and we may be able to offer more activities for our students down the road.

This new venture is set for a two-year trial period, and equal representation between CAL and MACS is working to formulate all the rules and guidelines for the upcoming season. The MCAC Committee has met three times and will be meeting again to finalize the policies it is currently working through.

Mr. Jeff Bonkoski (athletic director of CAL) and Mr. Shawn McKinney (athletic director of MACS) are the two key players in

this project as they will be serving the first year as co-chairs for the conference. Member schools from the new MCAC conference have met and scheduled games for the fall season already. Dates have been finalized for tournaments and definition of lengths of seasons. The group is actively working to ensure clear communication for a smooth start to the athletic season in the fall.

Our athletic offerings will not change, and MACS activities will also remain the same. The most noticeable difference will be that there will be different schools on the sports schedules. New schools will be traveled to and our students will have opportunities to forge new relationships, play different teams, and face different competition. We are excited about the possibilities of the new MCAC conference.

The following schools are now a part of MCAC and our new (and smaller) MACS schools (as well as CAL schools) will have the opportunity to participate as they are able. Initially, two divisions have been created, North and South.

Here is the current makeup of those divisions for the coming year:

MCAC North Division

Cambridge Christian School—Cambridge
 Chisago Christian School—Chisago City
 Faith Christian School—Foreston
 Granite City Christian School—St. Cloud
 Heritage Christian School—Karlstad
 Lake Region Christian School—Baxter
 Lighthouse Christian School—Grand Rapids
 St. Cloud Christian School—St. Cloud
 St. Francis Christian School—St. Francis
 Woodcrest Baptist Academy—Fridley
 Good Shepherd Christian School—Elk River

MCAC South Division

Community Christian School—Wilmar
 Grace Christian School—Mankato
 First Baptist School—Rosemount
 Fourth Baptist Christian School—Plymouth
 Immanuel Lutheran School—Mankato
 Liberty Christian School—Chippewa Falls
 Owatonna Christian School—Owatonna
 Prior Lake Christian School—Prior Lake
 Rochester Home School—Rochester
 Valley Christian School—Osceola

What will happen to MACS? MACS itself will still stay as it currently is with its 17 member schools. All of the activities, outside of athletics, that MACS offers will still be in operation. Please note the following dates for tournaments.




MCAC Tournament Dates:



Soccer and Volleyball Tournament will be held at Lake Region Oct. 24-26. First round games will take place Mon./Tues., Oct. 21-22, at higher seed. For the tournament, Tier II games will be played Thurs./Fri., and Tier I games will be played Fri./Sat.

Basketball: Feb. 21-22 are the dates for the first round tournament games for all basketball teams. Teams will be seeded 1—16. Losers of first round games go on to play in the Tier II tournament held February 27-March 1 at Cambridge Christian School. Winners of the first round games go on to play in the Tier I tournament held March 6-8 at Fourth Baptist Christian School.

As we implement this new athletic league, we thank you in advance for your prayers, support, and help.

~ Alan Hodak, MACS Executive Director

THIRD QUARTER 2023-24	All "A" HONOR ROLL	A AVERAGE	B AVERAGE
<p data-bbox="110 153 224 174">First Grade</p> 	<p data-bbox="402 153 574 317">Asher Bruder Oliver Hanks Carson Kolwinska Abigail Macalus Alexa Miezwa Daniel Nsameh Santiago Skurat</p>	<p data-bbox="768 153 984 386">Paton Blazosky Wilson Campbell Mira Damyan Lily Eggleton Daniel (DJ) Jean-Louis Caspian Jeppeson Anna Kachula Amelia Kappel Lyla Loch Wesley Rathbun</p>	<p data-bbox="1156 153 1344 317">Sarah Damyan Mila Demchenko Kristen Goshgarian Jeshua Grado Timothy Loghinov Karina Petrashov Evangeline Shrader</p>
<p data-bbox="110 539 250 560">Second Grade</p>	<p data-bbox="402 539 643 863">Adam Babcock Micah Bruder Gage Byers Caleb Caasi Eva Damyan Brecken Felt Isabella Korovin Maxim Lipinskiy Aurora Rathbun Hudson Schwartzenburg Harper Seymour Neriah Shelton Joshua Strong Anthony Zhukouski</p>	<p data-bbox="768 539 1011 768">Luke Chihak Gabriela Damyan Zackary Friar Octavian Golodneac Ophelia Kifyak Peter Levang Kayda Mendoza-Tamayo Everly Quinn Amelia Sisam Daniel Tkach</p>	<p data-bbox="1156 539 1338 560">Alexandra Kachula</p>
<p data-bbox="110 934 228 955">Third Grade</p>	<p data-bbox="402 934 599 1209">Leyla Blazosky Blake Coulson Vanessa Diaz Calero Eva Jenkins Avonlea Laumann Elise Liu Emmaline Macalus Rhys McLeish Drake Ogbourne Gianna Reese Lucia Skurat Michael Totimeh</p>	<p data-bbox="768 934 951 1257">Matthew Aleckson Daniel Chuprin Emma Damyan Asher Delich Aria Felt Zoey Jean-Louis Blessa Johnson Calvin Levang Lincoln Loch Max Montgomery Ezekiel Nsameh Michael Olaru Micah Rolling John Strong</p>	<p data-bbox="1156 934 1289 999">Isaac Leanger Jason Ureke Shaela Zeah</p> 
<p data-bbox="110 1379 245 1400">Fourth Grade</p>	<p data-bbox="402 1379 578 1493">Ava Blazosky Kate Kovalchuk Michelle Olaru Ammiel Rylka Thomas Wheaton</p>	<p data-bbox="768 1379 927 1587">Dan Damyan Leah Damyan Parker Delich Brielle Faithfull Harrison Kappel Gabriel Nieson Isaiah Shrader Robinson Smith Jace Wicklund</p>	<p data-bbox="1156 1379 1357 1633">Isabella Agness Benjamin Brutskiy Jackson Byers Samuel Damyan Zachary Demchenko Roland Eppers Maria Kellogg Timothy Kifyak Mira Nagel Vanessa Tkach Laila Zderchuk</p>
<p data-bbox="110 1703 224 1724">Fifth Grade</p> 	<p data-bbox="402 1703 553 1768">Roman Kachula Margot Levang Viviana Skurat</p>	<p data-bbox="768 1703 943 1768">Kimberly Arroyo Emmanuel Scherr Reuben Totimeh</p>	<p data-bbox="1156 1703 1349 1957">Belinda Aleckson Josiah Bruder Roman Burlak Garrett Coulson Jacob Damyan Sofia Lipinskiy Nathan Loghinov Elijah Rudolph Zoey Scherr Anna Strong Tianci (Grace) Zhou</p>

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