



Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

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The Messenger

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Can you Afford Christian Education?

Maybe the better question is: “Can you afford *not* to have your kids in a Christian school?”

Fourth Baptist Christian School was founded in 1966, in part, in response to three major Supreme Court decisions that changed the direction of public education forever. Prior to this time, schools, by and large, accepted the Bible as authoritative. Students prayed, memorized Bible verses, and some districts even held Bible classes. American culture believed in Bible basics even though many were not Bible-believers or Christ-followers.

In 1962, *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) took a simple New York public school prayer and made it unconstitutional. The prayer was recited to start each school day and it simply said, “Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee,

and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our community.” For the previous 170 years, students in New York public schools could pray, but no more. Not only was the prayer thrown



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MACS Choir Festival Brings Students Together in Harmony

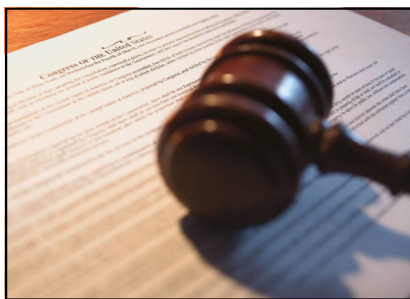
Approximately 130 students from 7 MACS schools (Chisago, Fourth, Grace, Lake Region, Owatonna, St. Francis, and Woodcrest) gathered at Fourth Baptist Christian School on November 1st to create a premier Festival Choir. Under the expert direction of Mr. Allan Hawkins, students stretched and grew musically

in ways they may never have experienced before. The day included in depth master classes for ladies and men taught by accomplished local music educators Lila Olson and Curtis Kettler and sectionals with music teachers. Many students especially appreciated

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out, but also how a court case would be decided. Previously, a court case was decided according to historical precedent, however, in *Engel v. Vitale*, there was no precedent that could be cited by which to make this decision. American culture was all for prayer in schools, but the court set a path forward which gave itself power that it was never intended to have. Gone was the simple prayer invoking God's blessing upon our nation.



Murray v. Curlett (1963) abolished public school prayer and Bible reading from the public school classroom in America entirely. Self-proclaimed atheist Madeline Murray

O'Hare took her boys to school one day and as she observed Bible reading and prayer in her boys' classrooms, she decided to take on the public school system to abolish both. One of the two sons with her that day, William, became a Christian later in life and has been a vocal proponent of school prayer and Bible reading in schools ever since.

The third Supreme Court case which changed the face of education was *Abington Township School District v. Schempp* (1963). The state of Pennsylvania had mandated that ten verses from the Bible be read daily in the public school classroom. This had been followed for many years. Parents brought the case to court citing that their child was being forced to take part in that exercise, and the result was that secularism became the normal belief-system in our public schools.



American students were no longer allowed to hear the Bible read, recite a prayer, or discuss anything that had to do with a Biblical worldview during the six or seven hours that they spent each day in their public schools.

As a result of these cases and other local laws, the Christian school movement began and grew in the subsequent two decades. Fourth Baptist Christian School grew tremendously in those early years. What began as a small K5 - 4th grade school with 45 students increased in size to 633 students in 1985. Today, Fourth Baptist Christian School hovers in the low 200's with a beautiful facility that could easily house double

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MACS Calendar 2013-14

**January 24 – Student Leadership Conference
at Fourth Baptist**

January 28 – Legislative Breakfast at Kelly Inn in St. Paul

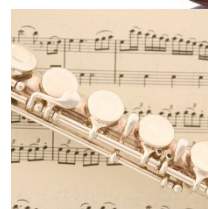
February 6 – MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

**February 27 – March 1 – MACS State Basketball Tourney
at Fourth Baptist**

March 6 – MACS Jr. High Festival

April 4 – MACS Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist

April 4 – MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist



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that number of students.

Traditionally, public schools were community-based and parent controlled, but in recent decades we have seen a movement away from local control toward federal control. Schools that used to be community-based have moved away from a traditional definition of community. City districts have experienced the largest transformation due to population shifts and cultural changes. The federal government has responded with over 150 federal programs that pour millions of dollars into local school districts. Slowly disappearing is the ability of school districts to control their own curriculum and for states to manage their own educational budgets.

What is most disturbing, however, is what the National Educational Association (NEA) is pushing our public schools to teach. Resolutions from the 2012-2013 NEA Convention push education programs which promote the homosexual lifestyle regardless of the parents' belief. They operate on the premise that all students should have direct and confidential access to comprehensive health, social, and psychological programs and services. This would include family-planning counseling and access to birth control. Parents would not be able to restrict obscene and offensive books on the shelf in school libraries and taught in classrooms. In the state of MN, laws exempt schools and teachers from any liability when it comes to obscene materials in schools.

According to Mohler, "public school classrooms are being transformed into laboratories for ideological experimentation and indoctrination. The great engines for Americanization are now forces for the radicalization of everything from human sexuality to postmodern understanding of truth and the meaning of texts. Compulsory sex education, the creation of 'comprehensive health clinics,' revisionist understandings of American history, Darwinian understandings of science and humanity, and a host of other ideological developments now shape the norm in the public school experience. If these developments have not come to your local school, they almost surely will soon.

Added to these worries is the general breakdown of discipline within the schools and the fact that the public schools are now seen as social service centers. Many schools are asked to do social work as much as education, and the very idea of what such an education should be is up for debate. Standards have fallen, discipline has evaporated, armed guards roam many hallways, and teachers feel increasingly unable to teach or to maintain order" (Mohler, p. 64-67).



I often tell our new parents that what makes us different from any other school, public or private, is not that we have high academics, small teacher to student ratios, Bible class and prayer, high test scores, excellent music programs, or championship soccer and volleyball teams, but that our primary goal is to teach our students how to think biblically. While that is the key philosophical component in our Christian educational system I hope our parents and other Christian families come to understand, I often wonder what it is going to take for Christian education to become a conviction in the lives of our Christian families. The minds of our children are at stake. Postmodernism is the prevailing worldview taught in our government-run schools, and it appears that we are never going back to the way things once were. I believe that this is one of the chief reasons why we are losing our young people from our churches in their teens and twenties.

FBCS has not changed, and will not change, and as far as I can tell, neither will any of the schools that belong to the Minnesota Association of Christian Schools (MACS). MACS is fighting to maintain our schools' religious rights. We will not retreat from our standards or our doctrinal positions. Our prayer is that Christian parents in Bible-believing churches will come to the realization of what is happening to our government-run schools. Lord willing, our own parents will stay firm in their own convictions regarding Christian education. What results from conviction is action. In the case of our children's education, my prayer is that in their personal lives, believing parents will make the financial

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ACT College Entrance Exam Has Updated Its College Benchmark Scores



ACT Benchmark Scores were designed to give our students an indicator of how they might perform in certain college courses if they go on to college. In the areas of English and Mathematics, scores remained the same, but in Reading, benchmark scores were raised one point to reflect testing data and school surveys. The science scores were lowered one point as well. This, no doubt, is in response to the movement toward Common Core Standards that are being implemented nationwide. Below is a chart which lists a Subject Area Test and the updated ACT College

Readiness Benchmark score. “Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a ‘B’ or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a ‘C’ or higher in corresponding credit-bearing, first-year college courses. These college courses include English

Composition, College Algebra, Biology, and Introductory Social Science courses. Based on a national sample of colleges and universities, the benchmarks are median course placement values across these institutions and as such represent a typical set of expectations” ♦ (*ACT Update Page*).

| Subject Area Test | Updated ACT College Readiness Benchmark |
|-------------------|---|
| English | 18 |
| Mathematics | 22 |
| Reading | 22 |
| Science | 23 |

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adjustments necessary to live out their conviction for a Biblical education for their children.

In a recent chapel, I told our secondary students that I believe God is preparing an army of young people to go out into the world and preach the Gospel. The Gospel is the only hope for change in a culture that has taken God out of everything. The only way the younger generation is ever going to see God is through us. We must prepare our students to be salt and light. We must prepare our students academically with truth from God’s Word and truth about our history. We must instill in our students a strong work ethic and sense of personal responsibility. In addition, we must teach our students what is right and offer them a way to



live and function that is far superior to what the world has to offer. Our students must understand and believe that God’s Word is the only source of absolute

truth. We must mentor and model for them lives dependent upon the grace of God and show our students what a transformed life looks like. There is hope for this generation, but not as products of a godless educational system that is becoming controlled by one centralized governmental power.

We, as parents, must reevaluate and give our children the gift of a Christian education. Pastors, we must preach and teach and impress upon our people a Biblical philosophical mindset regarding education. Students, you must understand the importance of learning how to think, not from the world’s post-modernistic indoctrination, but from a mind-set centered around God’s Word as absolute truth.

Can change occur? Absolutely it can, but culturally, it will not occur until our convictions regarding education result in action. The other alternative is no longer an option for the Christian. ♦ —*A. Hodak*

Mohler Jr., Dr. R. Albert. “Is Public School an Option?” *Answers in Genesis* (2013), pp. 64-67.



Welcome Cloverdale Red Storm to MACS

Cloverdale Red Storm will be a part of MACS this year. The group is currently a home school co-op that is participating in several sports as well as in some of our fine arts events. The group from Cloverdale used to have its own Christian school, but shut the program down several years ago. A group of parents want to see a Christian school start again in the area. Nearby Grand Rapids used to have a Christian school, but it closed down as well, so there is not a program available to Christian families. There are many young families in the Cloverdale and

surrounding communities who desire to have a Christian school. Parents are meeting each month for planning and interest is high. "We would love to see a new Christian school come out of the Cloverdale area again," stated Mr. Alan Hodak, MACS Executive Director. "We are praying that God will unify a group of parents in a strong sponsoring church to solidify an effort to move forward within the next two years."

In the meantime, we are glad that Redstorm is a part of MACS and we warmly welcome them to our association. ♦ - A. Hodak



MACS Enrollment Is Up 28 students or 2% This Year!

We are excited to report that MACS enrollment is up slightly this year. Our enrollment increase is due to the addition of our sixteenth school group from Cloverdale. A number of our schools experienced enrollment increases. Nine schools saw a slight increase while seven saw a slight decrease. We praise the Lord for His provision for our association this year. ♦

The End of the Road for the SAT 10

AACS is currently in the process of investigating what to do about our annual achievement testing. SAT will not develop a SAT 11 test. The SAT 10, written in 2000, will continue to be available for several years, but declining participation has caused Pearson (the company handling the SAT) to partner with ACT. Their new achievement test, the ACT Aspire, will be ready in the Spring of 2014.

While this test will fall in line with the new Common Core standards, we are looking at other achievement tests that align closer with the objectives of our Christian curriculum. In the coming months, AACS will also look at Terra Nova and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills as possible alternatives to SAT.

Please stay tuned... -A. Hodak

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forming new friendships during break times and meals with schools they normally compete against in sport and fine arts.

The day culminated in a public evening concert. Individual schools presented their own repertoire. The Festival Choir concluded by singing "Festival Sanctus," "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds," and "If Music Be the Food of Love." Students walked away with a greater appreciation for their Creator and new tools to serve Him with throughout their lives. ♦



2013 MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tourney Results

Boys' Soccer

Champion: Warriors from Fourth Baptist Christian School, Plymouth

Second Place: Crusaders from First Baptist School, Rosemount

Third Place: Sabres from Owatonna Christian School/Grace Christian School, Mankato Sabres

Consolation: Hornets from Lake Region Christian School, Brainerd/Baxter

Girls' Volleyball

Champion: Warriors from Fourth Baptist Christian School, Plymouth

Second Place: Patriots from Heritage Christian School, Karlstad

Third Place: Warriors from Woodcrest Baptist Academy, Fridley

Consolation: Lady Patriots from St. Francis Christian School, St. Francis

Tier 2 Winner: Eagles from Grace Christian School, Mankato



All Tournament Teams:

Boys Soccer:

1. MVP: Josh Peterson – Fourth Baptist
2. Robert Horn—Fourth Baptist
3. Daniel Foster —Rosemount
4. Scott Fruetel—Rosemount
5. Daniel Kroll—Owatonna/Mankato
6. Chris O'Larte—Chisago
7. Paul Tomsche—Fourth Baptist
8. Wesley Schultz—Owatonna/Mankato
9. Joe Beltran—Lake Region
10. Michael Steien—Heritage
11. Brett Cournoyer—Fourth Baptist

Girls Volleyball:

1. MVP: Jayden Webster—Fourth Baptist
2. Amber Wikstrom—Heritage
3. Julia Van Luyk—Fourth Baptist
4. Samantha Snow – Lake Region
5. Lea Boring—St. Francis
6. Allison Tutt—Woodcrest



MACS 2013 Soccer Champions Fourth Baptist Christian School Warriors—Plymouth



Second Place First Baptist Crusaders
—Rosemount

RIGHT: All Conference First Team:

L to R: Hanson, Schultz, Kroll, Foster,
Goncharenko, Tidrick, Fruetel, Horn,
Cournoyer, Vigstol

(not pictured: Beltran)



LEFT: All Tournament Team:

L to R: Steien, Cournoyer, Schultz,
Tomsche, Kroll, Fruetel, Horn,
Foster, Peterson

(not pictured: Beltran, O'Larte)



MACS 2013 Volleyball Champions Fourth Baptist Christian School Warriors—Plymouth



Second Place Heritage Christian Patriots
—Karlstad



ABOVE: All Conference First Team: L to R: Wikstrom, Webster, Jorgensen, Tutt, Boring, Snow

BELOW: All Tournament Team: L to R: Tutt, Boring, Snow, Van Luyk, Webster, Wikstrom



All-Conference Selections

First Team - Soccer

1. Joe Beltran—Lake Region
2. Daniel Kroll—Owatonna/Mankato
3. Ethan Schultz—Owatonna/Mankato
4. Bryton Hanson—Heritage
5. Daniel Foster – Rosemount
6. Viktor Goncharenko – Rosemount
7. Scott Fruetel – Rosemount
8. Casey Tidrick—Rosemount
9. Robert Horn—Fourth
10. Brett Cournoyer – Fourth
11. Josh Vigstol—Fourth

Second Team - Soccer

1. Chris O'Larte—Chisago
2. Christian Waits—Rosemount
3. David Levy—Owatonna/Mankato
4. Josh Peterson—Fourth
5. Troy Shold—GCBA/Twin Ports
6. John Yeom—Rosemount
7. Bailey Boelter—Lake Region
8. Austin Hraba—Chisago
9. Jeremiah Wilson—Heritage
10. Wesley Schultz—Owatonna/Mankato
11. Rajan Mohinani—Fourth

Honorable Mention - Soccer

1. Tyler Hugg—GCBA/Twin Ports
2. Ben Christianson—Owatonna/Mankato
3. Andrew Kinniburgh—Fourth



First Team – Volleyball

1. Amber Wikstrom—Heritage
2. Jayden Webster—Fourth
3. Jenessa Jorgensen—Owatonna
4. Lea Boring—St. Francis
5. Samantha Snow—Lake Region
6. Allison Tutt—Woodcrest

Second Team – Volleyball

1. Rachel Trunnell—Owatonna
2. Crystal Nisly—Cloverdale
3. Julia Van Luyk—Fourth
4. Marah Horner—St. Francis
5. Lauren Ward—Mankato
6. Taylor Snow—Lake Region
7. Laura Grandstrand—Heritage

Honorable Mention – Volleyball

1. Rachel Kirkwold—Chisago
2. Sarah Shold—GCBA/Twin Ports
3. Molly Grider—Lake Region
4. Lenee Noonan—Victory
5. Evie McKay—St. Francis
6. Amanda Anderson—St. Francis
7. Janae Jorgenson—Owatonna
8. Rhea Wikstrom—Heritage
9. Mariesa Hennessey—Mankato
10. Alaura DeMaris—Woodcrest
11. Jessica Ureke—Woodcrest
12. Mackenzie Meyer—Woodcrest
13. Christy Graves—Rosemount
14. Leah Atkin –Cloverdale