

THE FAÇADE OF THE BUILDING HAS CHANGED, BUT THE FOUNDATION STANDS

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Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

~Alan J. Hodak

I love studying and reading about history! I especially love studying about the history of our nation, its Founders, and some of the special stories that highlight our heritage. I was recently asked to review a book on the Bible and its impact on our early history. An excerpt from the Great Awakening (1725-1775) caught my interest.

During a period of about thirty years, the American colonies experienced a spiritual revival unlike any other. Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield were mentioned as key figures. Having limited knowledge about these men, I decided to do further study. I did some research on Jonathan Edwards, a fascinating character. I remembered that in one of my literature courses in secular college, we read many of his writings. One memorable reading was his sermon, *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. As I studied a bit more about his life, I found out that at the age of 13, Edwards entered Yale College and graduated from their School of Divinity. After rededicating his life to full-time service to our Lord, Edwards eventually worked under the tutelage of his grandfather, and upon his grandfather's death, took over his grandfather's church. He served there for twenty years.

His preaching was convicting as he brought the issue of sin to the forefront. Edwards always stressed a person's need to be saved. Once he established that the unregenerate in the audience were surely on their way to hell because of their sin, he would then present the clear plan of salvation. Thousands were saved because of the truth of this message.

Yale kept coming back to mind as I further examined Edwards' life. From information I read on the web, I studied Yale University, Harvard University, and Princeton. I did not find out much about the history of each college, but I did find out that many of our early founders and leaders graduated from these institutions. Institutions which, at that time, taught God's Word and trained most of our great theologians and ministers of that day.

What I found in digging a bit further, was that the idea of the university was a Christian invention. The classical Christian university, from the medieval universities to the early American colleges, were organized around three



branches of knowledge: the "natural sciences," the knowledge of the external world—including both empirical science and philosophical reflection on objective truth; the "moral sciences," the knowledge of human beings and how they should live—covering such fields as history, the humanities, and law; and the "theological sciences," knowledge of God to be gained from studying Scripture, theology, and the Christian life (Veith).

During the Great Awakening, theology was considered to be the basis—the foundation—by

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(Private Education, continued from page 1)

which all other truth was derived. Since God held together the foundation and everything else was built upon it, early universities used a strong biblical foundation in teaching all subjects.

Obviously, things have changed over time. I graduated from a secular university that had its roots in the teaching of education. The Bible was taught there as well, in its early years, as in most secular schools of that day. As a Christian, I am embarrassed by many things that have come out of that college today, but I can remember sitting in the class, *Biblical Backgrounds of Literature*, in which I was taught fallacies with regard to the Bible. I was a new Christian at the time and I remember, with limited knowledge of the Word, arguing with the professor because he attacked the very foundational truths that I had learned from my pastor. My professor had his theories and I had the truth of the Word of God.

The impact of our universities on academia is far reaching. Most of the Baby Boomers (my generation—I'm dating myself) experienced Bible teaching and prayer in the public school they attended as elementary students. Today, objective truth has been thrown out the window to allow for incredibly twisted ways of looking at our world. Add to this the liberal political educational agenda that our culture is being forced to learn, and the outcome now is that "universities once devoted to the



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pursuit of truth are, ironically, the very institutions that are denying there is any such thing" (Veith).

We are seeing today in our Christian colleges and many churches, that doctrine and biblical principles are no longer clearly stated. These issues are up for discussion and debate, and multiple views are accepted. The prevalent tendency of our culture is to stray far away from our biblical heritage. What has happened to schools like Yale, Harvard, and Princeton could very well happen to many churches and Christian schools in our day. Satan is busy causing confusion and spreading lies about the truth of the Word of God.

The ministry of our schools, and other schools like ours, is serving a critical role in the education of our children. Despite the outcome of elections and the various popular trends of our

nation and culture, God's Word will continue to flourish in the minds and hearts of the people who are open and willing to receive it. We must never minimize the importance of a Christian education and we must prioritize the inclusion of the Word of God in our everyday lives.

God's people, who are surrendered to God's Word and filled with God's Spirit, will yield the fruit of the Spirit in the eyes of a needy world that is desperately looking for answers. Only God's Word has the answers. Your children, equipped with a biblical education received from their home, church and school, will be the ones who carry on the biblical heritage of our nation.



The façade of the building will continue to change and look different from generation to generation, but the solid foundation of God's Word will always stand.

Veith, Gene Edward. "Can We Recapture the Ivory Tower?" *World Magazine*, Oct. 1999.

MACS Choir Festival 2022

On November 11, 2022, over two hundred students from six MACS schools joined together for our bi-annual MACS Choir Festival. Our guest conductor was Dr. Tim Sawyer from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. The music for the festival was chosen in advance and each school worked hard preparing the songs before the festival. At the festival, students rehearsed together in four mass choir rehearsals.

The students also had the wonderful opportunity to have several amazing sectional coaches work with them for some more focused training – Mrs. Melody Johnson, UNWSP; Mrs. Samantha Laumann, U of MN and UNWSP; Mr. Richard Joseph, UNWSP, and Mr. Raymond Graybar. One

of our festival songs was written by Dr. Dan Forrest and we were able to do a Zoom session with him and learn more about his life and experience as a composer.

We also enjoyed great times of food and fellowship in our snack and meal times. The closing concert included performances by MACS school choirs, some amazing solo selections by our sectional coaches, and the combined festival choir performances of our songs – *Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho*, *Ukrainian Alleluia*, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, and *America the Beautiful*. You can find the concert archive at:

<https://vimeo.com/770093626>



Mr. Raymond Graybar



Mrs. Samantha Laumann



Mr. Richard Joseph



Mr. Levi Kolwinski with Dr. Tim Sawyer





2022 MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tourney Results

Boys' Soccer

Champions: First Baptist, Rosemount Crusaders

Second Place: Lake Region Hornets

Third Place: Chisago Patriots

Fourth Place: Woodcrest Warriors

Consolation (Fifth Place): Owatonna/Mankato Sabres



Girls' Volleyball

Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Second Place: St. Francis Patriots

Third Place: Woodcrest Warriors

Fourth Place: Chisago Patriots

Consolation (Fifth Place): Owatonna Sabres



Boys Soccer All-Tournament Team:

1. Carter Antoine – Chisago
2. Albert Sharkevich – Woodcrest
3. Kovii Boldt – St. Francis
4. Soren Benson – Lake Region
5. Silas Tolosa – Owatonna
6. Antony Alikin – Rosemount
7. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
8. Trey Ogren – Lake Region
9. Josh Anderson – Rosemount
10. Parker Trabant – Chisago
11. Neville Makori – Rosemount - MVP

Girls Volleyball All-Tournament Team:

1. Grace Brower – St. Francis
2. Mariah Cave – Chisago
3. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
4. Renata Echebengua – Woodcrest
5. JoJo Rieschl – Fourth
6. Clara Rieschl – Fourth
7. Nevaeh Carlson – Fourth – MVP



You did it!
Congratulations



Above: Rosemount Crusaders—Soccer Champions

Below: Lake Region Hornets—2nd place



Left: Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors—Volleyball Champions

Below: Rosemount Lady Crusaders—2nd place



All-Conference Soccer



First Team - Soccer

1. Carter Antoine – Chisago
2. Albert Sharkevich – Woodcrest
3. Travis Poe – Owatonna
4. Kovii Boldt – St. Francis
5. Trey Ogren – Lake Region
6. John-Paul Fitzpatrick - Lake Region
7. Zachary Choi – Prior Lake
8. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
9. Joseph Bostrom – Lake Region
10. Isaac Caasi – Fourth
11. Parker Trabant – Chisago

Second Team - Soccer

1. Soren Benson – Lake Region
2. Neville Makori – Rosemount
3. Wesley Cain – Prior Lake
4. Chris Thrun – Woodcrest
5. Landon Brahs – St. Francis
6. Silas Tolosa – Owatonna
7. Carsten Markgraf – Fourth
8. Levi Borner – Rosemount
9. Tommy Brink – Chisago
10. Caleb Accurso – Prior Lake
11. Landon Broere – Fourth

Honorable Mention - Soccer

1. Abram Terrazas – Rosemount
2. Kavan Lundblad – Chisago
3. Roman Sharkevich – Woodcrest
4. David Coons – St. Francis
5. Trevor Poe – Owatonna
6. Isaac Tong – St. Francis

All-Conference Volleyball

First Team – Volleyball

1. JoJo Rieschl – Fourth
2. Nevaeh Carlson – Fourth
3. Grace Brower – St. Francis
4. Moriah Brower – St. Francis
5. Clara Rieschl – Fourth
6. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
7. Renata Echebengua – Woodcrest
8. Mariah Cave – Chisago

Second Team – Volleyball

1. Eryn Frieze – St. Francis
2. Stella Multerer – St. Francis
3. Audrey Long – Owatonna
4. Becca Cave – Chisago
5. Emma Boldt – St. Francis
6. Hailey Cooke – Owatonna
7. Mirelli Fritz – Prior Lake
8. Katie Klejwa – Rosemount

Honorable Mention – Volleyball

1. Alyssa Stephens – Fourth
2. Grace Owens – Chisago
3. Juliet Thrun – Woodcrest
4. Gabrielle Fawcett – Redstorm
5. Nicole Thorson – Lake Region
6. Kiera Wynja – Rosemount
7. Grace Kargel—Lake Region
8. Maddie Frieze—St. Francis



*All-Conference Awards are voted on
by the coaches. Congratulations!*



1st Team All Conference—Owen Nelson, Isaac Caasi, Travis Poe, Carter Antoine, Albert Sharkevich, Kovii Boldt, Trey Ogren, Joe Bostrom, John Paul Fitzpatrick. (not pictured: Parker Trabant, Zachary Choi)



All-Tournament Team: Silas Tolosa, Carter Antoine, Albert Sharkevich, Neville Makori, Kovii Boldt, Antony Alikin, Owen Nelson, Josh Anderson, Joe Bostrom, Trey Ogren, Soren Benson. (not pictured: Parker Trabant).



Volleyball 1st Team All-Conference: (above): Renata Echebengua, Julia Ureke, Clara Rieschl, JoJo Rieschl, Nevaeh Carlson, Grace Brower, Moriah Brower, Mariah Cave



Volleyball All-Tournament Team (at right): Mariah Cave, Julia Ureke, Renata Echebengua, Grace Brower, Nevaeh Carlson, Clara Rieschl, JoJo Rieschl, Moriah Brower

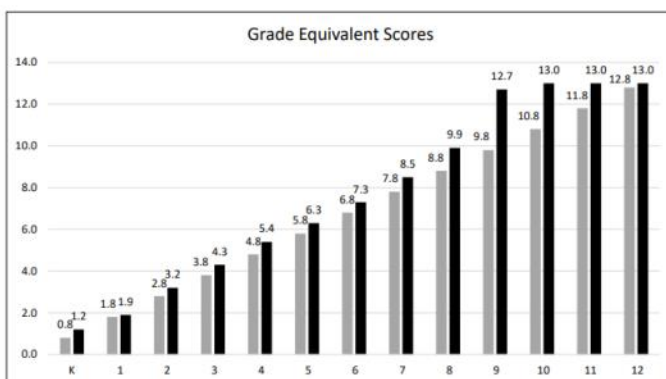


Minnesota Association of Christian Schools 2022-23 MACS Events Calendar

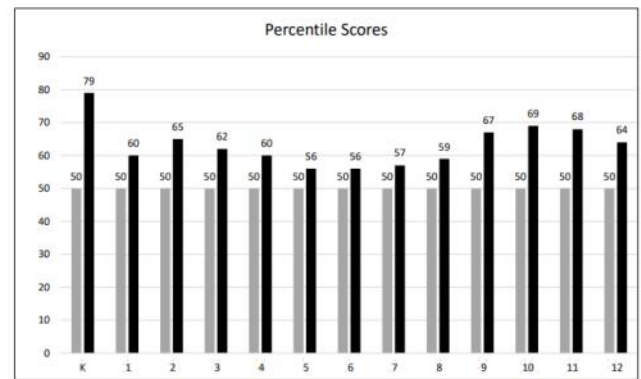
- **January 20, Friday**—MACS Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist
- **February 9, Thursday**—MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest
- **February 10-11, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JH Basketball Tournament at Rosemount
- **February 17, Friday**—last scheduled conference game for Basketball
- **February 23, Thursday**—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount
- **February 20-21, 23-24, Monday & Tuesday, Thursday & Friday**—Basketball play-in and first round games. (The last game to be considered for seeding will be scheduled on Friday, February 17).
- **March 2-3, Thursday & Friday**—MACS Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist and Woodcrest
- **April 14, Friday**—MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS Annual Meeting—10:00am at Fourth Baptist
- **May 5, Friday**—Granite City Track Meet (St. Cloud) – All MACS Schools are Invited to participate



American Association of Christian Schools Iowa Assessment Results 2021–2022 School Year



13.0 means these scores are above the measurable capacity of the test



= National Average Grade Equivalent Scores and Percentile Scores (2017 norms)
 = AACCS Average Grade Equivalent Scores and Percentile Scores