



# The Messenger

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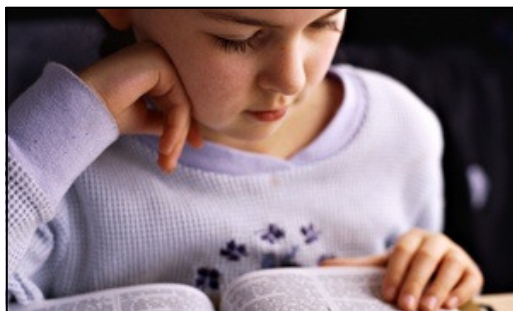
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## Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

### Kindergarten Graduation Message: Thinking Like a Kindergartner

Every morning, about 8:40 a.m., I walk down the halls of our Christian school locking the facility completely down. It is a daily exercise that secures the safety of our students and teachers, but allows me the privilege to see and hear what is going on in our classrooms first thing each day. Children are singing songs about God, reciting Scripture, or praying together. Kids pray for grandparents who are sick, friends who are lonely, their sick pets, or their parents. Each morning, these children are acknowledging that their whole world belongs to God, that He is in control, that He deeply cares about each one of them and their needs, and that He hears and answers their prayers.

Every day, the Christian school places a teacher before them who has been called by God to minister as a Christian school teacher, and who is free to share from the Word of God in the classroom. That teacher is a



powerful example of a regenerated life whose purpose is to lead the boys and girls entrusted to him/her toward a personal walk and relationship with Jesus Christ. It is that example that the children will remember as



they are taught how to pray, how to react to problems in the classroom, how to respond to a need, and how to lead by example. That teacher will explain what sin is - what we do that is wrong or perhaps what we didn't do that we should have done, and that we are all sinners. She will explain that we cannot earn our way to Heaven because God's standard is a perfect standard that we cannot measure up to, because we are sinners by nature and fall short of God's glory. That teacher will explain that God solved our sin problem for us by sending His only son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on a cross and to shed His blood for our sin. He died on the cross for us. He rose from the grave three days later and conquered death, and now He is seated at the right hand of the Father. He has prepared a place for us so that we, one day, if we choose to believe in Christ's free offer of salvation, will enjoy Heaven for all of eternity. You see, my friends, our students are offered a free gift that it is illegal to offer in any of our government-run schools. Our students are

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*(Kindergarten, continued from page 1)*

offered teaching of eternal value on a daily basis that has value, as Proverbs says, more precious than fine gold. For the Word of God and the valuable wisdom of God is shared, and it is worth every penny of tuition spent. Biblical teaching of eternal value is shared daily in every classroom in every grade, K4-12, in our Christian school. All learning, in every subject area, is taught from a Biblical perspective, whether it is history, English, math, health, or science.

We choose curricula which emphasizes a Christian worldview and a love of God, country, and others. Its strong phonetic reading emphasis and foundational math teaching is unparalleled. Our kindergarten students have already learned how to read, and most of our students are reading fluently as many have mastered two and three

syllable words and can sound out more complex words. In comparison to most other kindergarten programs, our students are at least six months to a year ahead of others in what they have already learned. Equally as impressive is their foundational knowledge of numbers and beginning addition and subtraction.



Our teachers are committed to good communication

with the parents, and their philosophical goal is to be the extension of your home. Our Christian teachers do not want to be your child's parents, but they do want to mentor your children. When your child comes home from school, they share some of the wonderful truths they have learned from their day, reciting some of the Bible verses they learned, singing some of the songs they sang in school, and reading to you. The joyful response from you as you hear all that your child has learned at school made the investment worth it. It was worth the drive. It was a great educational experience for your kindergarten child.

Our Christian school is not interested in incessant testing which takes an inordinate number of days away each year from valuable instructional time. Our Christian school is not interested in a common core which will ultimately lead to a reduction of instructional hours and the inculcation of non-academic, post-modernistic teachings, which could turn our children's hearts away from the foundational truths of

the Word of God. Our children do not need to be encouraged to question their sexuality at school or wonder about an alternative lifestyle of living and be confronted with that daily, perhaps even from their own teacher. God has already created our children as a male or a female, and God knows a whole lot better what He is doing than any man or government-run educational system does. There are timeless truths that our Christian school will always hold dear. We will not fall prey to false, anti-biblical teachings.

Our pedagogy (how we teach) will not be altered by a common core movement that is test-driven. Instead our pedagogy will be driven by curriculum (what we teach), and our curriculum will be driven by a desire to integrate biblical truth in everything it does. Our Christian school will always be curriculum-driven and not test-driven.

So why am I writing another article on the value of Christian education? Because we are losing our kids! Many parents are letting them go into a system of free education that is void of what is most important ...God! I would submit to you that the very reason you first sought out our school was to find a safe place, a wholesome place, a place that was strong academically, but also strong spiritually because you wanted to give your child a good foundation in a school whose teaching was centered around the timeless truths of God's Word. You wanted a place that loved your child and would teach your child the things you held dear about your Christian faith and your God. You wanted to make sure that he heard that he was special and that God has a place and a purpose for him that was special and unique to him.

Should it be any different for first grade? Seventh grade? Tenth grade? It should not. It is with that kind of a



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# Legislative Update – Universal Preschool

No doubt, you have heard all the discussion about Governor Dayton's proposal to use the budget surplus for universal preschool. Our governor's original proposal called for \$1.25 billion dollars over the next budget cycle and another \$916 million dollars in the following. DFL and Republicans from both Houses were not excited about the proposal because Minnesota already has a preschool program for low income families. The amount of money which would be allocated to this project would take away about 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the current budget surplus. The point of the program targeted about 57,000 middle class kids whose families were not eligible for state preschool subsidies and could not afford quality care. All of the programs would have been housed in existing public schools under district oversight. In all the budget rewrites, both legislative houses eliminated all preschool funding. In the news recently, even though the governor has been upset over the lack of support for his proposal, budget compromise seems to be taking shape without the governor's universal preschool proposal. A Special Session should be forthcoming with compromises on the state budget without universal preschool. ♦ —A. Hodak

Source: Hawkins, Beth. "Early Ed. Advocates Look at Dayton's Preschool Plan and Wonder: Why?" Minnpost, 3/26/15



(Kindergartner, Continued from page 2)

commitment that we stand continuously for the benefit of your family and the future of all our children.

I simply stand before you clinging to one thing that I know in my heart to be true: when our children graduate from high school, as our class of 2015 did in late May, will they leave our homes, parents, thinking as God thinks or thinking as the world thinks? Our Christian school will always do everything in its power to teach our kids how to think as God thinks. But if that doesn't matter to you as a parent, then I can guarantee one thing: your child will think as the world thinks, and the way the world thinks is becoming increasingly and completely antithetical to the way God thinks.

So, I want you to think as our kindergartners are thinking tonight. This year, they have been taught about a Creator-God who loves them, who sent His only Son to die for them so that they could know Him personally and know that they have eternal life through faith in Christ. They have been taught that God is a personal God who has a plan for them. My prayer for them is that this will be the course they are taught and will follow all the years of their K – 12 education.

Thank you for allowing our teachers and staff to give your children a foundation of Christian education for kindergarten and may this class of 2026 graduate with a mindset and a worldview that is truly Christ and Bible-centered, and may they always view God as they are viewing Him tonight. May they always think like a kindergartner.

—Alan J. Hodak





## CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS COME TOGETHER FOR THE ANNUAL SPRING TRACK MEET HELD AT GRANITE CITY BAPTIST, ST. CLOUD

The cooler air on May 8th was perfect for running and competing in track. You can tell from the pictures that the kids had a great time. Granite City Baptist took home the 1st place Boys team trophy (in a tie) and the Girls 3rd place trophy as well. Fourth Baptist tied for the Boys 1st place also and won the Girls 1st place trophy. Prior Lake Christian came in 2nd for both the Boys and Girls teams, and Oakland Baptist was 3rd for the Boys team and 4th for the Girls team. The participants enjoyed the camaraderie and fun. Pastor Dennis Campbell says, "This year we had the best turn out for the track meet to date. There was a large group from Prior Lake and Fourth Baptist. Oakland Baptist and Granite City Baptist had good numbers. We had to have several heats and a final for several races. It was a perfect day and we look forward to greater numbers next year." - A. French







Fourth Baptist Girls' team—1st place





## Summer Sports Camps at Fourth Baptist

(Open to all MACS Schools)

**June 8—12 Basketball Camps**

**Aug 3—7 Volleyball/Soccer Camps**

Camps are for students in grades 3—12

Contact Alan Hodak at [ahodak@fourthbaptist.org](mailto:ahodak@fourthbaptist.org) for more information.



## 2015 – 2016 MACS School Year Events

**June 8 - 12** – Basketball Camp at Fourth Baptist (all MACS Schools invited)

**August 3 - 7** – Soccer/Volleyball Camp at Fourth Baptist (all MACS Schools invited)

**August 28** – Rosemount Jamboree & MACS Pastor/Administrator Fellowship at Rosemount

**October 8 - 9** – WI/MN Teacher's Convention at the Wisconsin Dells

**October 22 - 24** – MACS State Volleyball and Soccer Tourney at First Baptist, Rosemount

**November 6** – Choir Festival at Fourth Baptist – Concert at 6:30pm with combined choirs

**January 22** – Student Leadership Conference at Fourth Baptist

**February 4** – Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

**February 25 - 27** – MACS State Basketball Tourney at Fourth Baptist

**March 4** – MACS Jr. High Festival

**April 8** – MACS Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist and MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist

**May 13** – Granite City Baptist Annual Track Meet, St. Cloud