

Revving It Up to Fourth Gear

By: Alan J. Hodak

In our recent FBCS newsletter, I wrote the following article about our school. Even though it is written about FBCS, I think it applies to all schools wherever they may find themselves. Last year, MACS experienced a 25.4% increase in enrollments. That was an addition of over 470 students association- wide. So whatever gear you are in, recognize that the challenges we all face are quite similar. May God bless our efforts with wisdom as we continue to plan for next year.

In my junior year of high school, I purchased a 1972 Chevy Camaro. It was gold with beautiful mag wheels. It had a spoiler on the back with a 350 engine, a four-barrel carburetor, and best of all, a four-speed manual transmission. I loved driving that car!

Christian schools can be compared to the speeds of a transmission. Some Christian schools are in first gear and remain there: Finances are very tight-sometimes payroll is not met. The staff is young and inexperienced, facilities are usually a problem, enrollment is low and it is hard to plan from year to year, and everyone has to work at extra jobs; teachers are sometimes disciplinarians, administrators are also the accountants, maintenance men, etc.

Second gear is usually better. Schools are experiencing some growth, classrooms and staff are being added, programs are improving, and teachers are staying as the school develops. The school begins to look at the process of accreditation and is preparing itself to improve to get better.

Our school shifted into third gear about nine years ago. Money was raised to complete the soccer field, equip more classrooms, update the gym, and retire the debt to the building. Staff

stayed with the program and significant growth in student population occurred. We have seen our sports teams improve, our already solid music program get better and better, and we have added high school electives and other activities in recent years. The future looks bright!

So... it is time to put it into fourth gear. Alumni parents are putting their kids in the school! Parents are telling other families regularly, and the wave of people looking at our school is wonderful! There is, however, a problem with fourth gear: *I had just turned onto 24th street in my Camaro heading north in Phoenix and had downshifted to second around the corner and eased it into third gear. In the Camaro, I could easily push the engine to 50 and a quick shift into fourth comfortably listening to the sweet purr of my engine. As I passed the policeman with the radar gun pointed at me, I had forgotten the speed limit of 35 and was caught doing 52 miles per hour. The consequence was a fine and an eight-hour driving school date I had to attend.*



Satan loves it when we shift into fourth gear. A Christian school staff can become comfortable, complacent, because things are easy! We forget about the tough days of first gear when we had to trust the Lord for our pay. We would pray, sometimes on our knees for God to

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provide our paychecks and He would miraculously answer and provide. We have enjoyed a season of plenty at Fourth – God has been very gracious to us.

Parent and student complacency can also become a problem in times of plenty. We don't appreciate what God has given us in our school. We complain or find fault when we should be grateful for what God has supplied.

FBCS, like many other Christian schools, is experiencing significant growth. The decisions we are making, and the investment of time, energy, money, and planning for the future of our school is unlike anything I have been a part of before.

So what could fourth gear look like moving forward?

- The addition of possibly five new full-time teaching positions for the coming school year
- Another round of accreditation – a third renewal
- The addition of double sections in our elementary program
- New classroom preparations within the facility
- Possible remodel of our library
- The addition or expansion of athletics and fine arts

These investments, and others like it, will yield tremendous fruit and the return will be immeasurable in light of eternity. Could there be a fifth gear? Only the Lord knows...

And you are a big part of that investment – You are the ones who, through your commitment to our school, through your financial stake, and through your prayers and support, keep us strong, keep us on track, and keep us moving forward. You are our advertisement and the reason so many new families are coming. Putting the machine into fourth gear is a bit scary, I have to admit, but we see the Hand of God providing our

needs and bringing us new families and staff who desire to be a part of our Christian school.

It would be too easy to coast in fourth gear. I don't want that to happen. We need to press on to become a better school, a stronger school, but we cannot and will not lower our standards in any way. Should we become complacent and satisfied with coasting, we probably need to drop it back to third gear, slow down, roll up our sleeves, and work a little harder.



I believe, however, we are ready for fourth gear and we covet your prayers, help and support. We have much to do!

~Mr. Alan J, Hodak, *MACS Executive Director*

Acknowledgments:

{Credit given to Mr. Dan Veldman for the 4-gears illustration}

MACS Academic Scholarship Recipients

These one-time scholarships in the amount of \$500 are for students with excellent academic record and high college prep test scores who are also planning to attend a Christian college in the fall. This year, we had twelve applicants. Of these, six students (three boys and three girls) were chosen to receive the scholarships.

Boys:

1. Jackson Schoonover—Woodcrest—attending Maranatha Baptist University
2. Cole McQueary—Fourth Baptist—attending Bob Jones University
3. Alexander Wester—Prior Lake—attending Bob Jones University

Girls:

1. Emaleigh Smith—Lake Region—attending Maranatha Baptist University
2. Zoe Horner—St. Francis—attending Liberty University
3. Makaila Schewe—Grace-Mankato—attending Maranatha Baptist University

2022 MACS Fine Arts Festivals Review

MACS was able to hold our annual Fine Arts Festivals like normal this year! The purpose of our festivals is to help students further develop their skills and glorify God through their participation in music, speech, academics, and other fine art categories.

Our Junior High Festival was held on March 4 at First Baptist in Rosemount. There were 7 MACS Schools involved with 255 junior high school students – a record number of participants! We had 159 different festival entries ranging from solos, small ensembles, large ensembles, speeches, bible teaching, and art entries. The day ran very smoothly thanks to the work of Ms. Savannah Bungert, the staff at First Baptist, and the numerous judges that assisted that day. We look forward to the JH Festival next year on Friday, February 24, 2023 again at First Baptist of Rosemount, and we hope that many students will plan to participate again next year.

The Senior High Fine Arts Festival was held on Friday, April 8 at Fourth Baptist in Plymouth. Eight MACS schools participated with 303 total student participants and 200 total entries in the Festival! Students participated in a wide variety of vocal, instrumental, art, photography, home ec, and science fair categories throughout the day. Events began at 9:15 AM and the Awards Assembly finished by 4:30 PM. Our judges gave a lot of feedback and did a great job coaching each student or ensemble group. While many entries were nominated to perform, the Awards Assembly featured performances by a men's quartet from Woodcrest, a violin solo by Noelle Anderson from Fourth Baptist, and a vocal duet by Evelyn Williams and Isabel Guillen from Fourth Baptist.

You can find the placing results on the Fourth Baptist music website:
<http://music.fourthbaptistchristianschool.org/macs-fine-arts-festival-2022/>.

Our MACS SH Fine Arts Festival 2023 will be held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at Fourth Baptist. We hope many students will begin planning ahead for our festival next year! ~Levi Kolwinska, SH MACS Fine Arts Festival Coordinator



Woodcrest Men's Quartet received "Best in Show" honors



Lake Region Piano Duet



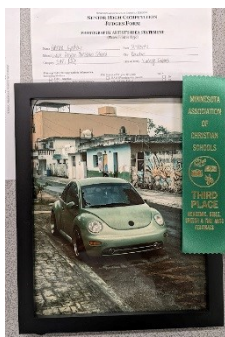
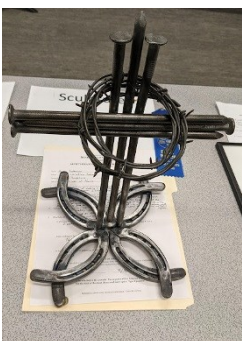
Rosemount Choir receiving the judge's comments



Members of the Fourth Baptist Platinum Handbell Choir performing



Members of the Fourth Baptist Brass Ensemble performing





MACS
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

2022 STATE VARSITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

AWARDS SUMMARY:

BOYS:

Champions – Lake Region Hornets

2nd Place – Rosemount Crusaders

3rd Place – St. Francis Patriots

5th Place (Consolation) – Fourth Baptist Warriors



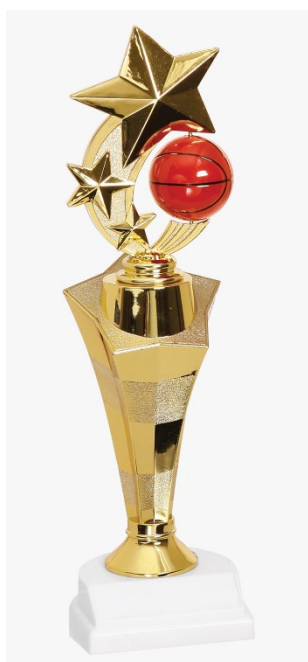
GIRLS:

Champions – Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors

2nd Place – Woodcrest Lady Warriors

3rd Place – Rosemount Lady Crusaders

5th Place (Consolation) – Chisago Lady Patriots



Boys All-Tournament Team:

1. Chris Thrun—Woodcrest
2. Landon Brahs—St. Francis
3. Naftal Morara—Rosemount
4. Ryan Borner—Rosemount
5. Logan Backstrom—Lake Region
6. Josiah McGaffey—Lake Region
7. Phil Imdieke, MVP—Lake Region

Girls All-Tournament Team:

1. Elise Jenkins—Rosemount
2. Sarah Anderson—Rosemount
3. Sarah Ureke—Woodcrest
4. Julia Ureke—Woodcrest
5. Emily Combs—Fourth Baptist
6. JoJo Rieschl—Fourth Baptist
7. Clara Rieschl, MVP—Fourth Baptist



1st Place Lake Region Hornets



2nd Place Rosemount Crusaders



1st Place Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors



2nd Place Woodcrest Lady Warriors



All-Conference Selections



Boys First Team All-Conference

1. Phil Imdieke—Lake Region
2. Logan Backstrom—Lake Region
3. Naftal Morara—Rosemount
4. Ryan Borner—Rosemount
5. Landon Brahs—St. Francis
6. Chris Thrun—Woodcrest

Boys Second Team All-Conference

1. Josiah McGaffey—Lake Region
2. Trey Ogren—Lake Region
3. Noah Summers—Rosemount
4. Levi Barth—St. Francis
5. Micah Horner—St. Francis
6. John Wusu—Woodcrest

Boys All-Conference Honorable Mention

1. James Webster—Fourth Baptist
2. Travis Poe—Owatonna
3. Trevor Poe—Owatonna
4. Carter Antoine—Chisago
5. Wesley Cain—Prior Lake
6. Jeffrey Hanson—Woodcrest
7. Damian Craig—Lake Region
8. Matthew Kloeckner—St. Francis

1 Girls First Team All-Conference

1. Amber Dudek—Rosemount
2. Elise Jenkins—Rosemount
3. Clara Rieschl—Fourth Baptist
4. JoJo Rieschl—Fourth Baptist
5. Sarah Ureke—Woodcrest
6. Amber Neubert—Lake Region

Girls Second Team All-Conference

1. Emma Boldt—St. Francis
2. Julia Ureke—Woodcrest
3. Callista Weber—Rosemount
4. Becca Cave—Chisago
5. Mariah Cave—Chisago
6. Nikole Thorson—Lake Region

Girls All-Conference Honorable Mention

1. Sarah Anderson—Rosemount
2. Emily Combs—Fourth Baptist
3. Kayla Stephens—Fourth Baptist
4. Stella Multerer—St. Francis
5. Grace Brower—St. Francis
6. Mirelli Fritz—Prior Lake
7. Savannah Johnson-Skadsem—Heritage



All-Conference First Team: L to R: Ryan Borner, Naftal Morara, Logan Backstrom, Phil Imdieke, Landon Brabs, Chris Thrun



All-Conference First Team L to R: Amber Neubert, Sarah Ureke, Elise Jenkins, Amber Dudek, Clara Rieschl, JoJo Rieschl

MACS Basketball Tournament Action Shots may still be ordered on the **Shot in the Dark Sports** website.

Go to: <https://shotinthedarksports.net/> and click on the February 2022 tab to view and order. Thanks to Mark Sherman and his crew for taking tournament photos for us all of these years!





Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

2022-23 MACS Events Calendar

- **June 20-24**—Basketball Camps @ FBCS—All MACS Schools are invited
- **August 8-12**—Soccer/Volleyball Camps @ FBCS—All MACS Schools are invited
- **August 15, Monday**—Soccer/Volleyball preseason practices may begin
- **August 26, Friday**—Rosemount Jamboree (Soccer & Volleyball) & MACS meeting at Rosemount
- **September 29-30, Thursday & Friday**—GLCEC Teacher's Convention in Kalamazoo, MI
- **October 18, Tuesday**—last scheduled conference game for Soccer/Volleyball
- **October 21-22, 24-25, Friday & Saturday, Monday & Tuesday**—Soccer & Volleyball play-in and first round tournament games
- **October 27-28, Thursday & Friday**—MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tournament at Rosemount
- **November 11, Friday**—MACS Choir Festival at Fourth Baptist
- **November 12, Saturday**—Schools may have Basketball tryouts
- **November 14, Monday**—Basketball Team practices may begin
- **November 18-19, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JV Basketball Tournament at Chisago
- **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 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).
- **February 24, Friday**—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount
- **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**—Granite City Track Meet (St. Cloud) – All MACS Schools are Invited to participate

