

## In this Issue ...

Feature Article.....	1
Fine Arts Festivals.....	3
Basketball Tourney.....	4
MACS Scholarships.....	8
2023 Teacher Convention.....	8
GCBA Track Meet.....	9
MACS Calendar.....	10

# Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

# The Messenger

www.mnchristianschools.org

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## Minnesota Legislation Update: Christian College PSEO Programs

A companion bill in the Minnesota House and Senate addresses Christian colleges and PSEO programs in our state. This is part of the many changes in education policy brought on by Governor Walz and the DFL controlled House and Senate. HF-1269 and SF-1311 include language that has been added to the policy. On lines 19.8 and 19.11, both bills read as follows: "An eligible institution must not require a faith statement during the application process or base any part of the admission decision on a student's race, creed, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation, or religious beliefs or affiliations." This language will disallow funding for Christian college programs that require students to sign a faith statement in order to be accepted and attend these programs.

An example of an eligible institution is the University of Northwestern, St. Paul and other area Christian colleges in our state. Students

final tests are not passed," said Mr. Hodak, Administrator of Fourth Baptist Christian School. "When we take college courses from an institution like the University of Northwestern, St. Paul, our students pass the courses and earn college credits. They also receive a college transcript from Northwestern, a regionally accredited university."

Many have panicked over the language of this bill, but it will not affect Northwestern's ability to administer their on-line PSEO program because no faith statement is required to be signed to take their on-line coursework. This new stipulation, if passed, will not change our school's ability to take their courses, but it will affect the university's ability to offer their on-site program to students desiring to attend Northwestern early and remain there for their final two years of college. This will indirectly affect the bottom line for Northwestern and could have an effect on their overall PSEO program. Our students have benefited from Northwestern's commitment to excellence and we are grateful for their excellent on-line course offerings.



have enjoyed the privilege of attending these schools in their junior and senior years and receiving free college tuition in order to take advantage of the state funding for post-secondary education. FBCS, and many schools in our association, has created "Honors" programs which allow our students the ability to work on-line and receive dual credit in order to get a jump start on earning college credits during the junior and senior years of high school. "We have chosen to not offer AP courses because there is no guarantee of earning credit if the

A few weeks back, I sent an email to our MACS schools' administrators and pastors to share with each of their constituents and take some action in writing, calling, or emailing each state Representative and Senator to eliminate this added language in these two bills. The current legislature seems to be dead set on changing much of the educational policy that our state has known for decades. There is no question that as we watch new attempts being made to change the face of education policy in Minnesota, the trickle-down effects will eventually reach into private education.

*(PSEO Legislation, continued on page 2)*

*(PSEO Legislation, continued from page 1)*

We must be diligent to let our opinions be made known, writing and calling our officials to let them know where we stand. Should we remain silent, we will see new attempts at government overreach into the private school realm. I can only implore you to pay attention to these things in the coming months and years. I have been told that by this coming



summer, we will no longer recognize education policy in Minnesota.

Please remember these things when the next election cycle comes and become involved in electing conservative Representatives and Senators in your respective districts.

~Mr. Alan J. Hodak



## MACS Speech & Bible Festival

The annual MACS Speech and Bible Festival was held on Thursday, February 9th, at Woodcrest Baptist Academy. Students from six MACS schools participated in a variety of events; including preaching, Bible teaching, puppets, acting, monologues, and group theater events. Public speaking can be a challenge for many people, but the students who participated this year did a fabulous job memorizing and presenting their selections. One highlight from the festival was hearing a dramatic interpretation from Emmarie Nichols, a senior at St. Francis Christian School. Her piece was selected as an awards performance, and she is currently preparing to take that event to the national competition held at Bob Jones University. Since the MACS organization is composed of Christian schools, it is important that students have the opportunity to improve their communication skills so that they can be prepared to share their faith with others. While there is a Bible component to the competition, those who participate in the Bible events gain more than a rating or place. They are developing a love of studying the Scriptures and a confidence of sharing what they have learned with others. The day is always filled with fun and excitement; and we are always looking to increase the number of student participants next year. ~ *Teresa Herbert, Woodcrest*

## JH MACS Fine Arts Festival

The annual Junior High Fine Arts Festival was held on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. It was originally scheduled for Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, but due to a snowstorm, it was postponed for the following week. The event was hosted by First Baptist School in Rosemount MN. We had 7 schools and 269 students competing in 159 events including Art, Bible, Speech, and Music. The event ran from 9:00-3:30. The students did an amazing job! The following students earned a perfect score for their event: Rosie Misiura from St. Francis for her Bible Teaching, Levi Frost and Ty Hoskins from St. Francis for their Puppets, Payten Henderson and Rosa Thrun from Woodcrest for their Puppets, Ryan Reeise from First Baptist for his Snare Solo, and a Large Instrumental Ensemble from Fourth. We look forward to the JH Fine Arts Festival next year on Friday, March 8, 2024 again at First Baptist School of Rosemount, and we hope that many students will plan to participate again next year. ~ *Savannah Bungert, Rosemount*





## 2023 SH MACS Fine Arts Festival Review

It was a beautiful spring day for our SH MACS Fine Arts Festival this year. On Friday, April 14, Fourth Baptist Christian School hosted eight MACS schools with 308 total student participants, and 190 total entries in 35 separate fine arts categories at this year's festival, with an additional 15 academic testing categories. The purpose of our festivals is to help students further develop their talents and abilities, and to glorify God through their vocal and instrumental music, art, and academics.

Students performed in a wide variety of vocal, instrumental, art, photography, crafts, and science fair categories. Events began at 9:15 a.m., and the awards assembly concluded by 4:30 p.m.

We are always grateful for the judges who come and not only rate the performances, but also give helpful tips to the students so that they can reach the next level. Top choir honors this year went to Woodcrest who narrowly beat out Fourth Baptist. Top band honors this year went to Chisago. Top Handbell Choir honors was awarded to the Fourth Baptist Platinum Bell Choir. While there were no perfect scores awarded this year, many individuals and ensembles earned over a 90.0 to receive a superior rating.

Several entries were deemed outstanding and were nominated by the judges to perform during the awards assembly. This year's featured performances were the men's trio (Jon Kolacz, Jack Fure and Leo Kosovan) from Fourth Baptist, violin duet (Noelle Anderson and Adriel Ng) from Fourth Baptist, flute solo by Felicia Macari from Woodcrest, and vocal soloist Evelyn Williams from Fourth Baptist.

Melissa Kauffman of Fourth Baptist earned Best in Show award for her monochromatic drawing of a fox. The Best in Show photography award was given to Katrina Grotzke of Lake Region for her still life image of apples in various sizes and colors.

You can find full festival results listed on the MACS website: <http://www.mnchristianschools.org/fine-arts/>

Our 2024 MACS SH Fine Arts Festival will be held on Friday, April 12, 2024 at Fourth Baptist Christian School. We hope many students will begin planning ahead for our festival next year!





**MACS**  
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## 2023 STATE VARSITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

### AWARDS SUMMARY:



#### BOYS:

**Champions – St. Francis Patriots**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Woodcrest Warriors

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Rosemount Crusaders

5<sup>th</sup> Place (Consolation) – Lake Region Hornets



#### GIRLS:

**Champions – St. Francis Lady Patriots**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Chisago Lady Patriots

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors

5<sup>th</sup> Place (Consolation) – Prior Lake Royals



#### Boys All-Tournament Team:

1. Travis Poe – Owatonna
2. Josh Anderson – Rosemount
3. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
4. Jeffrey Hanson – Woodcrest
5. Jon Wusu – Woodcrest
6. Zaden Kloeckner – St. Francis
7. MVP – Landon Brahs – St. Francis

#### Girls All-Tournament Team:

1. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
2. JoJo Rieschl – Fourth Baptist
3. Clara Rieschl – Fourth Baptist
4. Mariah Cave – Chisago
5. Becca Cave – Chisago
6. Stella Multerer – St. Francis
7. MVP – Emma Boldt – St. Francis





1st Place—St. Francis Patriots



2nd Place—Woodcrest Warriors



3rd Place—Rosemount Crusaders



1st Place—St. Francis Lady Patriots



2nd Place—Chisago Lady Patriots



3rd Place—Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors





## All-Conference Selections



### **BOYS FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**

1. Landon Brahs – #30 – St. Francis
2. Jeffrey Hanson – #20 – Woodcrest
3. Zaden Kloeckner – #24 – St. Francis
4. Jon Wusu – #22 – Woodcrest
5. Josh Anderson – #42 – Rosemount
6. Trey Ogren – #2 – Lake Region

### **BOYS SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**

1. Shaun Larson – #23 – Fourth Baptist
2. Chris Thrun – #23 – Woodcrest
3. Travis Poe – #20 – Owatonna
4. Diezel Vagle – #34 – St. Francis
5. Owen Nelson – #33 – Rosemount
6. Levi Borner – #13 – Rosemount

### **BOYS ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION**

1. Gavin Linder – #23 – Chisago
2. Trevor Poe – #21 – Owatonna
3. Soren Benson – #3 – Lake Region
4. Grant Vikander – #33 – Fourth Baptist
5. Damian Craig – #22 – Lake Region
6. Wesley Cain – #11 – Prior Lake

### **GIRLS FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**

1. Mariah Cave – #3 – Chisago
2. JoJo Rieschl – #1 – Fourth Baptist
3. Clara Rieschl – #10 – Fourth Baptist
4. Emma Boldt – #23 – St. Francis
5. Moriah Brower – #34 – St. Francis
6. Julia Ureke – #3 – Woodcrest

### **GIRLS SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE**

1. Becca Cave – #5 – Chisago
2. Lydia Wynja – #45 – Rosemount
3. Nikole Thorson – #14 – Lake Region
4. Mirelli Fritz – #35 – Prior Lake
5. Grace Brower – #11 – St. Francis
6. Lois Huston – #24 – Woodcrest

### **GIRLS ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION**

1. Natalie Norman – #13 – Chisago
2. Jada McKinney – #44 – Rosemount
3. Alyssa Stephens – #12 – Fourth Baptist
4. Lizzie Schmidt – #5 – Owatonna
5. Eliana Fritz – #11 – Prior Lake
6. Stella Multerer – #22 – St. Francis
7. Juliet Thrun – #4 – Woodcrest

# ***Congratulations!***

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 March 2023 tab to view and order. Thanks to Mark Sherman and his crew for taking tournament photos for us all of these years!







*All-Conference First Team: L to R: Trey Ogren, Zaden Kloeckner, Landon Brahs, Jeffrey Hanson, Jon Wusu, Josh Anderson*



*All-Conference Second Team L to R: Owen Nelson, Diesel Vagle, Travis Poe, Chris Thrun, Shaun Larson, Levi Borner*



*All-Tournament Team L to R: Zaden Kloeckner, Owen Nelson, Josh Anderson, Travis Poe, Jeffrey Hanson, Jon Wusu, Landon Brahs (MVP)*



*All-Conference First Team L to R: Julia Ureke, Moriah Brower, Emma Boldt, Clara Rieschl, Jofo Rieschl, Mariab Cave.*



*All-Conference Second Team L to R: Lois Huston, Lydia Wynja, Becca Cave, Mirelli Fritz, Grace Brower.  
Not pictured: Nikole Thorson*



*All-Tournament Team L to R: Julia Ureke, Jofo Rieschl, Clara Rieschl, Mariab Cave, Becca Cave, Stella Multerer, Emma Boldt—MVP*



## MACS Academic Scholarship Recipients

The following are the final selections for the MACS Scholarship Winners for this year. The winners are receiving award letters. We had a large pool of applicants and only six were chosen based on the following criteria:

### Eligibility

- High school senior that has met all academic graduation requirements
- Full – time student at a MACS school
- Plans to attend a four (4) year Bible college of like faith (College must agree with the doctrinal statement of MACS.)
- Has a minimum high school GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Student must include any of the following test scores for determination of final award: PSAT, SAT, ACT

In addition, the application, pastoral letter of recommendation, testimony, copy of high school transcript and testing scores must be included by the deadline on the application. These six students (three boys and three girls) were chosen to receive the scholarships. ***Congratulations to all!***

### Boys:

1. Landon Broere—Fourth Baptist—attending Maranatha Baptist University
2. Trey Ogren—Lake Region—attending Faith Baptist Bible College
3. Landon Brahs—St. Francis—attending Faith Baptist Bible College

### Girls:

1. Karina Mendoza—Fourth Baptist—attending Bob Jones University
2. Evelyn Williams—Fourth Baptist—attending Liberty University
3. Grace Brower—St. Francis—attending Faith Baptist Bible College



## 2023 MACS Teacher Convention

We hope that you will make plans to attend the regional teacher convention in the Wisconsin Dells this October. We will join with educators from Wisconsin and Illinois. These events are so important for our teachers to fellowship with one another, be spiritually encouraged, and learn new ideas from one another for effective teaching of our students.

Go to this website for all the details: <https://www.wacschools.org/educators-conference1.html>

**REGISTRATION FEES** (includes the Thursday noon luncheon & Friday continental breakfast):

Member of Wisconsin, Minnesota or Illinois Association of Christian Schools (or another AACCS school):

- \$50 per person by September 1, 2023 • \$60 per person by September 30, 2023 • \$75 per person after September 30, 2023



Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois

**Christian Educators' Conference**

# A GREAT WORK

- Nehemiah 6:3b

**October 12-13, 2023**

**Glacier Canyon Lodge  
Wisconsin Dells**



# GCBA INVITATIONAL TRACK MEET GRANITE CITY BAPTIST ACADEMY

FRIDAY MAY 5, 2023

There were 74 runners from 3 Schools.

## TEAM RESULTS – VARSITY

### MALE

- 1 First Baptist School Rosemount (FBS) 116 pts.
- 2 Granite City Baptist Academy (GCBA) 94 pts.
- 3 Jubilee Christian School (JCS) 42 pts.

### FEMALE

- 1 First Baptist School Rosemount (FBS) 118 pts.
- 2 Granite City Baptist Academy (GCBA) 34 pts.
- 3 Jubilee Christian School (JCS) 34 pts.



Rosemount Boys



Jubilee Christian



Granite City



Rosemount Girls





# Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

## 2023-24 MACS Events Calendar

- **June 19-23**—Basketball Camps @ FBCS—All MACS Schools are invited
- **August 7-11**—Soccer/Volleyball Camps @ FBCS—All MACS Schools are invited
- **August 14, Monday**—Soccer/Volleyball preseason practices may begin
- **August 18, Friday**—Rosemount Jamboree (Soccer & Volleyball) & MACS meeting at Rosemount
- **October 12-13, Thursday & Friday**—WI/MN Teachers' Convention in WI Dells
- **October 17, Tuesday**—last scheduled conference game for Soccer/Volleyball
- **October 19, Thursday**—Play-in games for Soccer/Volleyball tournament seeding
- **October 20, 23-24, Friday, Monday & Tuesday**—Soccer & Volleyball first round tournament games at higher seed
- **October 27-28, Friday & Saturday**—MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tournament at Rosemount
- **November 10, Friday**—MACS Band Festival at Fourth Baptist
- **November 11, Saturday**—Schools may have Basketball tryouts
- **November 13, Monday**—Basketball team practices may begin
- **November 17-18, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JV Basketball Tournament at Chisago
- **February 8, Thursday**—MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest
- **February 9-10, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JH Basketball Tournament at Rosemount
- **February 16, Friday**—last scheduled conference game for Basketball seeding
- **February 23, Friday**—Play-in games for Basketball tournament
- **February 26-27, Monday & Tuesday**—Basketball first round tournament games at higher seed
- **March 1-2, Friday & Saturday**—MACS Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist and Woodcrest
- **March 8**—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount
- **April 12, Friday**—MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS Annual Meeting—10:00am at Fourth Baptist

