



The Messenger

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A Letter of Encouragement to our Christian Schools

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Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

Dear Staff Members, Pastors, Parents and Students:

In The December issue of the *Washington Flyer*, AACCS's newsletter to our schools, the feature article is entitled: "Shootings at Two Christian Schools Claim the Lives of Students and Staff and Injure Others." As a former Christian school administrator and now a pastor of a church, I have come to realize that the signs of our times are showing us that we truly are in "perilous times" (2 Timothy 3:1). Satan would like nothing more than for all of us to cower in fear. For me, we are in a well-traveled area of the city, and we have different guests coming into our church each week. Who knows what kind of baggage that individual may be carrying?

I must take to heart some words that the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in the context of not being afraid of exercising his spiritual gifts to the people of Ephesus: "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but [a spirit] of power, and [a spirit] of love, and [a spirit] of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7).

I am the first to admit that I do not like the fact that we even have to think about potential calamity occurring, but we are confronted with a societal problem that is affecting everyone and the only remedy is the gospel. Please don't forget that. I wholeheartedly and absolutely refuse to walk in fear, but I also know that there is only thing

that is going to have any impact, make any change, or turn the heart of any individual away from violence and hatred. That, of course, is when the Holy Spirit of God is welcomed into that person's heart and Christ's work creates a new creature in him/her as a result of that person's willingness to put their faith and trust in Christ.

I cannot reassure anyone that our schools, churches, the marketplace, or even our homes will always be immune from tragedy, but I can reassure you that our message and our prayers are powerful weapons of defense against the onslaught of evil that stems from our enemy, Satan. Do not even think about cowering in fear, but walk closely with the One who is capable of using you to change the lives of people around you. You and I have the key to heal the ills of our sick world. I am asking God to use me in my church ministry and you, in your vital and important school ministry, to impact our families and communities for Christ.

But these recent events also call us to action to review our emergency procedures, so that we are reevaluating what we are currently doing and what measures we have in place, so that we can make our schools and churches are even safer.

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If you are giving a tour, evaluate all individuals coming into your school. If there are suspicions, do not take them through. And when tours are completed, walk the individual out of the facility, saying “goodbye” to them and thanking them for coming to see your school.

Make sure that you are locking down your school and checking doors when school gets started and early morning duties have ended.

Double-check that all staff on recess duty are equipped with either radio devices that can communicate to the office or cell phones should they need you. At Fourth, we often had to go out to the parking lot to see why people were parked in our lot. Some were taking a break and some were using their cell phones and they did not have any business there. We had to ask them to leave and they were not always happy about it, but we were quick to intercept anyone who came on-site as fast as we could to prevent any potential problems.

Train all staff, including church staff, to keep a watch for these things. Our church secretaries often helped us in these areas, notifying us of folks that came on campus that they did not know.

Pray daily for God’s hedge of protection to be around your students and staff. Make this a practice at your staff devotional times and at other times during your daily, private prayer.

If your ministry is in a position to invest in security cameras or other electronic warning systems, consider those things as well.

Make sure dismissal times are in order and well-supervised for the pick-up of all your students.

At the conclusion of pick-up, lock up your facility again to ensure the safety of your staff who are working after hours.

Review your “Crisis Response Plan” and update annually or as often as is necessary.

While I trust these things are already in place, a review of all procedures are necessary to ensure the safety of our ministries. Parents may come to us—in light of these recent events—wondering what we are doing to make sure our facility is as safe as possible. Periodic reviews of our emergency procedures help to give our parents confidence that we are doing everything possible to keep their children safe.

May God’s hand of protection be upon all of us as we seek to accomplish the ministry our Lord has called us to.

God bless you.

~ Alan J. Hodak, MACS Executive Director

NEW MCAC Varsity Soccer & Volleyball Tournament



The inaugural year of the athletic merger between MACS and CAL produced a wonderful state tournament as the two leagues came together to establish the MCAC (Minnesota Christian Athletic Conference). Lake Region Christian School did a fantastic job of hosting all 20 of the schools involved in the tournament. Many close contests and even several upsets were a part of the weekend.

In the Tier 2 soccer bracket, the championship game featured the Rochester Defenders versus the Fourth Baptist Warriors. The Warriors had a dominant performance and won the Tier 2 championship! On the Tier 1 side of the soccer bracket, the championship game featured the #1 overall seed Prior Lake Royals against the #3 seeded St. Francis Patriots. After a hard fought battle, the Patriots came out victorious to cement their names in MCAC history as the first soccer champions of the newly formed league.

On the ladies side, the volleyball bracket saw many dominant performances by the top teams which culminated in a championship in Tier 2 for the Fourth Baptist Warriors defeating St. Cloud Christian Warriors. In the Tier 1 bracket, the championship game featured the overall #1 seed Community Christian School versus the #2 First Baptist School of Rosemount. Both teams had been dominant against league opponents and Rosemount’s only loss came at the hands of Community as they otherwise went undefeated. Community pulled out the championship with a come-from-behind win in the fourth set (3-1) and become the first volleyball champs of MCAC.

It was a great season and thank you to all of our MACS schools for supporting this new endeavor.

~Shawn McKinney, MACS Athletic Director

MACS Choir Festival—November 2024

FBCS hosted our annual MACS Choir Festival on Friday, November 8, welcoming 180 high school students from five MACS schools. We were privileged to have Dr. Doug Bachorik from Maranatha Baptist University as our guest conductor, along with his wife, Ruth, and nine MBU students who joined the choir throughout the day. The students had the opportunity to participate in exceptional masterclass sessions led by professional local voice teachers, including Mrs. Samantha Laumann (U of MN, UNWSP, and an FBCS parent), Mrs. Melody Johnson (UNWSP), Mr. Richard Joseph (UNWSP), and Mr. Raymond Graybar.

A highlight of the day was a video chat with composer Heather Sorenson, where students learned about how her faith influences her composition process. It was a truly inspiring

experience to hear from her directly! As always, the students were well-fed with delicious snacks and meals to keep them energized during the five+ hours of singing and rehearsing.

Our evening concert showcased performances from several MACS schools, as well as from our guest clinicians and the MBU students. The festival choir performed a beautiful repertoire, including *Search Me, O God* by Heather Sorenson, *Joy to the World* by Derric Johnson, *Sing Gently* by Eric Whitacre, and *Crown Him!* by Dan Forrest. It was a day filled with learning and growth, as students developed their God-given talents and abilities.

~Mr. Levi Kolwinska, FBCS Music Director





2024 MCAC State Soccer Tourney Results

Boys' Soccer

Tier 1:

Champions: St. Francis Patriots

Second Place: Prior Lake Royals

Third Place: Cambridge Christian Warriors

Consolation (Fifth Place): First Baptist Crusaders
(Rosemount)

Tier 2:

Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Second Place: Rochester Homeschool Defenders

Third Place: St. Cloud Christian Warriors



St. Francis Patriots



Prior Lake Royals

Boys Soccer All-Tournament First Team:

Woodcrest – Roman Sharkovich

Woodcrest – Albert Sharkovich

Rosemount – Jon Anaya

Lake Region – Soren Benson

Lake Region - Hayden Neubert

Cambridge – Junior Tivane

Cambridge – Michael Newton

Prior Lake – Aiden Pautz

Prior Lake – Grayson Cain

Prior Lake – Caleb Choi

St. Francis – Kovii Bolt

St. Francis – Taivys Bolt

MVP - St Francis – Gavin Brahs



Fourth Baptist Warriors



Soccer 1st Team All-Tournament Team



2024 MCAC State Volleyball Tourney Results

Girls' Volleyball

Tier 1:

Champions: Community Christian, Willmar, Eagles

Second Place: First Baptist Crusaders (Rosemount)

Third Place: St. Francis Patriots

Consolation (Fifth Place): Liberty Christian Eagles

Tier 2:

Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Second Place: St. Cloud Warriors

Third Place: Cambridge Christian Warriors



Community Christian Eagles



First Baptist Crusaders



Fourth Baptist Warriors

Girls Volleyball All-Tournament First Team:

Liberty – Lizzie Spate

Prior Lake – Mirelli Fritz

St Francis – Anastasia Vlasjuk

St Francis – Megan Grundahl

Woodcrest – Juliet Thrun

Rosemount – Lydia Wynja

Rosemount – Leah Anderson

Rosemount – Kierra Wynja

Willmar – Lexi Nelson

Willmar – Faith Westin

MVP – Community Margo Klassen



Volleyball First Team All-Tournament

Boys Soccer All-Tournament Second Team:

St. Cloud – Josiah Ahrends

Fourth – Grant Vikander

Fourth – Asher Zderchuk

Lake Region – Brody Kovatavich

Immanuel – Jack Stanton

Rochester – Levi Obrens

Rosemount – Tim Zubkov

Rosemount – Charles Kuenster

Chisago - Tommy Brink

Foreston – Avery Stewart

Cambridge – Chuck Semler

Soccer All-Conference Teams:



First Team: *(pictured above)*

Kovii Boldt	St. Francis
Gavin Brahs	St. Francis
Micah Brower	St. Francis
Noah Rogers	Prior Lake
Elijah Wilson	Prior Lake
Caleb Choi	Prior Lake
Aiden Pautz	Prior Lake
Grant Vikander	Fourth Baptist
Asher Zderchuk	Fourth Baptist
Albert Sharkevich	Woodcrest
Roman Sharkevich	Woodcrest
Grant Jensen	Woodcrest
Junior Tivane	Cambridge
Michael Newton	Cambridge
Jeremiah Newton	Cambridge
Soren Benson	Lake Region
Hayden Neubert	Lake Region
Jon Anaya	First Baptist
Isaac Wynja	First Baptist
Tyler Kirk	Rochester
Grant Antoine	Chisago Lakes
Tommy Brink	Chisago Lakes

Second Team:

Deacon Brahs	St. Francis
Gage Mickelson	Valley
Tyler Stephens	Fourth Baptist
Chuck Semler	Cambridge
Brody Kavatovich	Lake Region
Ryan Arns	Lake Region
Tim Zubkov	First Baptist
Will Lien	Immanuel
Tom Meyer	Rochester
Josh Elliott	Chisago
Braden Lamkin	Good Shepherd
Andrew Borstad	Willmar
Wes Johnson	Foreston
Titus Larson	St. Cloud

Honorable Mentions:

Jeremiah Martin	Valley
Caleb Lindsay	First Baptist
David Mulder	Willmar
Judah Beck	St. Cloud



Girls Volleyball All-Tournament Second Team:

Cambridge – Lizzy Treichel
Cambridge - Anna Morlock
Fourth Baptist – Megan Page

Fourth Baptist – Megan Lewellen
Rochester – Olivia Prigge
Woodcrest – Olga Malinsky
St Cloud – Adie Larson

Volleyball All-Conference Teams:



First Team: *(pictured above)*

Mirelli Fritz	Prior Lake
Adie Larsen	St. Cloud
Ayla Cross	Valley
Margo Klaassen	Willmar
Lexi Nelson	Willmar
Faith Westin	Willmar
Kate Cashin	Immanuel
Sophia Morrell	Fourth Baptist
Lizzy Treichel	Cambridge
Natalie Norman	Chisago Lakes
Kierra Wynja	First Baptist
Lydia Wynja	First Baptist
Jada McKinney	First Baptist
Anastasia Vlasjuk	St. Francis
Juliet Thrun	Woodcrest
Olga Malinsky	Woodcrest

Second Team:

Elliana Rich	Prior Lake
Payton Maasch	Lighthouse
Lizzie Spate	Liberty
Lilly Johnson	Foreston
Megan Page	Fourth Baptist
Anna Morlock	Cambridge
Lily Benson	Rochester
Mariah Kenfield	Heritage
Ada Rowenhorst	St. Francis
Laura Rowenhorst	St. Francis

Honorable Mentions

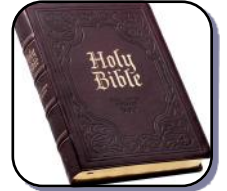
Isabella Sierra	Good Shepherd
Eli Rolfzen	St. Cloud
Rebekah Busch	Immanuel
Tamara DeVries	Lake Region
Ella Castillo	Chisago Lakes





Minnesota Association of Christian Schools 2024-25 MACS Events Calendar—UPDATED

February 6, Thursday—MACS SH Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest



February 7-8, Friday & Saturday—MACS JH Basketball Tournament at Rosemount

February 18, Tuesday—Last day of regular season for Varsity Basketball seeding



February 19, Wednesday—Varsity Basketball seeding announced

February 21-22, Friday & Saturday—MCAC Varsity Basketball playoff games at higher seed. Losers go to Tier II Tourney; Winners to Tier I Tourney



February 27-March 1, Thursday—Saturday—MCAC Varsity GIRLS State Basketball Tournament for both Tier I & II at Cambridge Christian School



March 4, Tuesday—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount

March 6-8, Thursday—Saturday—MCAC Varsity BOYS State Basketball Tournament for both Tier I & II at Fourth Baptist Christian School



April 4, Friday—MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist



May 2, Friday—Track Meet at Granite City Baptist Academy, St. Cloud

May 9-10, Friday & Saturday—MCAC Varsity Girls Soccer Tournament at Fourth Baptist

