

## Communicating Well, A Dying Art

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## Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

As a new pastor, I am faced with some very challenging issues that I did not anticipate. One such very interesting and unique challenge deals with an older saint whose wife recently passed away, leaving the necessity of long-term care for a special-needs grandchild that they raised.

Because of the grandchild's special circumstances, we are having a tough time finding placement. Every place we contact, which includes doctors, care centers, and even lawyers have proven to have a disease that I have creatively dubbed "IOC Disease," the IOC standing for "Incapable of Communicating."

I am not used to people not returning my call. That seldom happened in my thirty-eight years as a school administrator. And I suppose, in all fairness, it is not just characteristic of people in Missouri and Kansas, although I am suspicious that it is an epidemic here. Relatives have told me that IOC is not just limited to the place I am ministering, but everywhere. I am just not sure it is as bad in other places as it is here! You'll have to let me know.

IOC Disease is a voluntary action that occurs when one decides that he is not going to return a call, email, text, or letter. The instigator of the question, comment, or note, is simply ignored (like when one is put on hold and forced to listen to elevator music) for an extended period of time. And if the recipient ever decides to respond, it could be next week or next month or not at all. I have actually resorted, on two occasions, to calling and leaving a message and texting for three consecutive days in a row. If, after three days, I have not received a response, I drove to the office of the person and asked to see them. It is remarkable how they respond when confronted with, "Hi, I am Pastor Alan and I have left three messages for you to call me in the past week and I am here to talk to you in person because you have not returned my call."

I am beginning to wonder if it's not me (please don't say it... I really do try to be nice).

While I never anticipated some of these challenges, I have come to appreciate and recognize how important clear, thoughtful, tactful, loving, and immediate communication is. And as a believer, representing my Lord Jesus Christ, I need to become an excellent communicator. Please allow me to recommend some simple techniques for communication, for the benefit of our ministries, that will help your constituents and staff members as they communicate to others and to each other:

Make sure that general communications going home have all the details. This means that start



times, estimated finish times, addresses, necessary money the child needs, dress requirements, etc. are all included in a clear and concise communication home. Parents will love you for this. And include a number or email if they have questions that you may not have addressed.

Keep email communications at a minimum. In other words, take the time to make a phone call or request a short meeting after school if the issue warrants a personal touch. This often

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relates to a discipline or learning challenge that needs to be explained and discussed in person. I have learned that I am developing relationships with parents when I call them or talk to them face to face. They know I care and want to help and I am doing what I am saying our school is supposed to do (partnering with them) where we can work together with the common goal of solving a problem together.



Do not get into an email argument with a parent or staff member. If an email comes to you regarding a complaint, then a phone call or a one on one visit is the only form of communication that should come back from you. It is so easy to write the wrong thing that may be misinterpreted. Once this happens, it is hard to fix. If you send a return email, it should simply say, "Thank you for your email. Would you be willing to stop in, after school when you pick up your child, and speak with me further? I am free at 3:15 p.m. after duty." That way, cooler heads will prevail and you will not say something that you might regret later.

Timely responses are mandatory. In my responsibilities as administrator, I might get emails sent to me right before I was trying to get home to my family. Should I let them sit and wait

to respond the following day? It was my personal policy to at least respond back and say, "Thank you for your email. I am on my way home, but will respond to you by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow." That way, the person knew I cared and that their email was important to me. Then, I had to respond as I said I would.

Prioritize your communications. As administrator, teachers with a problem received an immediate visit to their classroom after school or were invited to stop by my office. Parents always received a response that day, and students might receive a response like, "Please stop by my office during your study hall, or elective period tomorrow and we can chat then." The more important the matter, the more immediate the response, but I always made it my practice to respond the same day, if at all possible.

Don't be afraid to ask for help from your administrator. I always let our teachers know that I would be happy to coach them through a matter or that we could write out together what needed to be said so that everything necessary was communicated clearly. That way, there was a text to follow if needed.

If making a tough phone call, don't be afraid to script it prior to the call. It is easy to get thrown off subject, but what needs to be said, needs to be said so that details are not forgotten.

Most importantly, pray! In all your communications, pray before making them. Allow the Spirit of God who indwells you, to guide your speech and give you the very words that you will need to communicate lovingly and successfully.

While I know there are many other possible scenarios, I hope you are seeing how thoughtful and timely communication is essential in building a quality school. Resist IOC with all that you have and become a great communicator. You will gain parents, students, staff, and glorify your Heavenly Father with your consistency and excellent communication.

~Pastor Alan Hodak, *Executive Director*

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## SH MACS Speech & Bible Festival

This year's MACS SH Speech & Bible Festival took place Thursday, February 6, 2025 at Woodcrest Baptist Academy in Fridley, MN with six MACS schools participating.

High School Students performed in areas of: Acting, Declamation, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, One Act Play, Oral Interpretation of Scripture, Readers' Theater, Bible Teaching, Topical Preaching, Puppets and Spelling Bee.

While participation seems to be lower this year and, in fact, is following a downward trend over the years, the students who chose to participate in this festival—and perhaps come out of their comfort zone to do so—will doubtless count it as valuable experience in preparation for life, whether in their future career or area of ministry. Public speaking in any form can be intimidation for anyone, but is also a needed skill in today's world.

~Alison French, *MACS Newsletter Editor*



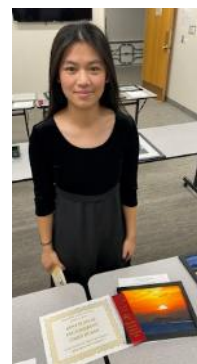
## JH MACS Fine Arts Festival

The annual Junior High Fine Arts Festival was held on Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. The event was hosted by First Baptist School in Rosemount MN. We had 7 schools and 263 students competing in 203 events including Art, Bible, Speech, and Music. The event ran from 9:00am-4:30pm. The students did an amazing job!

The following students earned a perfect score for their event: Kobe Dickens from St. Francis for his Oral Interpretation of Poetry, Elias Brombacher from Fourth Baptist for his Percussion Solo, Woodcrest's Large Instrumental Ensemble, and Ralston Joseph from St. Francis for his Vocal Solo.

We look forward to the JH Fine Arts Festival next year March 2025 at First Baptist School of Rosemount, and we hope that many students will plan to participate again next year.

*~Savannah Bungert, First Baptist School, Rosemount*



## MACS Scholarship Recipients for 2025

Congratulations to the following students who received the MACS \$500 Academic Scholarship for 2025:

**Gavin Brahs**, St. Francis, Faith Baptist Bible College

**Micah Brower**, St. Francis, Faith Baptist Bible College

**Moriah Brower**, St. Francis, Faith Baptist Bible College

**Jared Dudek**, First Baptist Rosemount, Pensacola Christian College

**Mirelee Fritz**, Prior Lake, Faith Baptist Bible College

**Jack Fure**, Fourth Baptist, Bob Jones University

**Moriah Hollister**, St. Francis, Faith Baptist Bible College

**Jon Kolacz**, Fourth Baptist, Liberty University

**Sophia Morrell**, Fourth Baptist, Bob Jones University





# 2025 MCAC State Boys Basketball Results

## Tier 1:

**Champions:** St. Francis Patriots

**Second Place:** Rochester Area Homeschool  
Defenders

**Third Place:** Prior Lake Eagles

**Consolation (Fifth Place):** Community Christian Eagles,  
Willmar

## Tier 2:

**Champions:** Chisago Christian Patriots

**Second Place:** Cambridge Christian Warriors

**Third Place:** Immanuel Lutheran Trojans



**St. Francis Patriots**



**Rochester Homeschool Defenders**

## MCAC All-Tournament Boys First Team:

#	Name	School
3	Soren Benson	Lake Region
20	Jon Anaya	First Baptist
3	Josiah Combs	Fourth Baptist
0	Brady Reinertson	Community
14	Jack Velyan	Community
5	Josh Quilling	Liberty
40	Elijah Wilson	Prior Lake

#	Name	School
55	Noah Morgan	Prior Lake
25	Jacob Aguirre	Rochester Homeschool
33	Lincoln Fulton	Rochester Homeschool
5	Paul Hoffman	St. Francis
31	Andrew Hoffman	St. Francis
34	Diezel Vagle	St. Francis





# 2025 MCAC State Girls Basketball Results

## Tier 1:

**Champions:** Rochester Area Home School Defenders

**Second Place:** Community Christian Eagles, Willmar

**Third Place:** First Baptist School, Rosemount

**Consolation (Fifth Place):** Prior Lake Eagles

## Tier 2:

**Champions:** Cambridge Christian Warriors

**Second Place:** St. Cloud Christian Warriors

**Third Place:** Fourth Baptist Christian Warriors



**Rochester Homeschool Defenders**



**Community Christian Eagles**

## MCAC All-Tournament Girls First Team:

#	Name	School
24	Lois Huston	Woodcrest
1	Lily Johnson	Chisago
3	Anastasia Vlasuyk	St. Francis
25	Mirelli Fritz	Prior Lake
13	Rebecca Heinze	Immanuel
45	Lydia Wynja	Rosemount
23	Keira Wynja	Rosemount

#	Name	School
12	Bella Kingsley	Rochester
22	Amelia Johnson	Rochester
30	Autumn Deyo	Rochester
4	Margo Klassen	Community Christian
34	Hope Reid	Community Christian
25	Lexi Nelson	Community Christian





## Boys Basketball MCAC All-Tournament Second Team:

#	Name	School
23	Taden Richter	Valley
2	Sam Dutcher	St. Cloud
45	Adrian Mustyatsa	Woodcrest
13	Cade Libby	Immanuel
12	Kaden Kruse	Immanuel

#	Name	School
11	Carter Larson	Cambridge
23	Jeremiah Newton	Cambridge
23	Gavin Linder	Chisago
24	Dante Barlow	Chisago
14	Gabe Morgan	Chisago

## Boys Basketball MCAC All-Conference Teams:



### All-Conference First Team

Player #	Name	School
11	Carter Larson	Cambridge
0	Brady Reinertson	Community
33	Grant Vikander	Fourth
13	Cade Libby	Immanuel
3	Soren Benson	Lake Region
5	Josh Quilling	Liberty
40	Elijah Wilson	Prior Lake
55	Noah Morgan	Prior Lake
25	Jacob Aguirre	Rochester
35	Andrew Aguirre	Rochester
11	Caleb Lindsay	Rosemount
5	Paul Hoffman	St. Francis
32	Deacon Brahs	St. Francis
34	Diezel Vagle	St. Francis
23	Taden Richter	Valley

### All-Conference Second Team

Player #	Name	School
23	Jeremiah Newton	Cambridge
24	Dante Barlow	Chisago
14	Jack Velyan	Community
23	Kaden Richardson	Foreston
23	Elijah Forman	Fourth
22	Jackson Stephens	Lake Region
2	Thomas McFarlin	Liberty
34	Micah Lindsey	Prior Lake
30	Clayton Siewert	Rochester
14	Isaac Wynja	Rosemount
23	Charles Kuenster	Rosemount
11	Addi Dobowey	St. Cloud
1	Hunter Rademacher	St. Cloud
23	Gavin Brahs	St. Francis
31	Andrew Hoffman	St. Francis

## Girls Basketball MCAC All-Tournament Second Team:

#	Name	School
1	Ava Erickson	Lake Region
2	Sophia Morrell	Fourth
22	Sydney Weisser	Fourth
3	Ellie Rolfzen	St. Cloud

#	Name	School
1	Ava Joy Brophy	St. Cloud
20	Eliza Gustafson	Cambridge
23	Klara Holmberg	Cambridge
4	Grace Estenson	Cambridge

## Girls Basketball MCAC All-Conference Teams:



### All-Conference First Team

Player Number	Name	School
22	Amelia Johnson	Rochester
3	Anastasia Vlasjuk	St. Francis
12	Bella Kingsley	Rochester
5	Gabbie Bollig	Community
4	Grace Estensen	Cambridge
2	Harper Rademacher	St Cloud
34	Hope Reid	Community
44	Jada McKinney	Rosemount
23	Kyria Wynja	Rosemount
25	Lexi Nelson	Community
24	Lois Huston	Woodcrest
45	Lydia Wynja	Rosemount
4	Margo Klaassen	Community
22	Maya McKinney	Rosemount
25	Mirelli Fritz	Prior Lake

### All-Conference Second Team

Player Number	Name	School
10	Ada Rowenhorst	St. Francis
30	Anaya Wilson	Prior Lake
30	Autumn Deyo	Rochester
1	Ava Joy Brophy	St Cloud
10	Cloe Busse	Immanuel
20	Eliza Gustafson	Cambridge
3	Ellie Rolfzen	St Cloud
13	Grace Newton	Cambridge
20	Jordyn Mariner	Immanuel
4	Juliet Thrun	Woodcrest
15	Lauren Johnson	Chisago
3	Lizzie Spate	Liberty
5	Lora Rowenhorst	St. Francis
13	Rebecca Heinze	Immanuel
2	Sophia Morrell	Fourth



## GRANITE CITY INVITATIONAL TRACK MEET

Granite City Baptist Academy in St. Cloud

Friday, May 2, 2025

### Participating Schools:

Granite City Baptist Academy

Moorhead Baptist

Jubilee Christian School

### TEAM RESULTS—VARSITY

#### MEN'S TEAM:

1st place—Granite City Baptist Academy (90pts)

2nd place—Moorhead Baptist (84 pts)

3rd place—Jubilee Christian School (52 pts)

#### WOMEN'S TEAM:

1st place—Moorhead Baptist (74 pts)

2nd place—Granite City Baptist Academy (60 pts)



## GIRLS SOCCER MCAC STATE TOURNAMENT

Fourth Baptist Christian School

May 9-10, 2025

Champions—Prior Lake Christian Royals

2nd place—First Baptist Crusaders, Rosemount

3rd place—Cambridge Christian Warriors

4th place—Fourth Baptist Christian Warriors

### All-Tournament Team:

MVP – Mirelli Fritz (Prior Lake)  
Madeline Wolters (Prior Lake)  
Gabby Schelkoff (Prior Lake)  
Keira Wynja (Rosemount)  
Ahniya Bean (Rosemount)  
Grace Estenson (Cambridge)  
Rachel Mosher (Cambridge)  
Sophia Morrell (Fourth)  
Audrey Steward (Faith)  
Kaiya Wagner (Lake Region)  
Ellie DeLeeuw (Community)  
Lillianna Olson (Valley)

### All-Conference Team:

Grace Estenson (Cambridge)  
Kapria Weiss (Cambridge)  
Ellie DeLeeuw (Community)  
Gabbie Bolig (Community)  
Emma Richardson (Faith)  
Hannah Dahlquist (Faith)  
Sophia Morrell (Fourth)  
Addie Farish (Fourth)  
Kaiya Wagner (Lake Region)  
Ava Erickson (Lake Region)  
Mirelli Fritz (Prior Lake)  
Madeline Wolters (Prior Lake)

Sophie Colaiano (Rochester)  
Abigail Erpelding (Rochester)  
Chloe Wynja (Rosemount)  
Keira Wynja (Rosemount)  
Ada Rowenhorst (St. Francis)  
Natalie Faanes (St. Francis)  
Grace Heitman (Valley)  
Julianna Dordal (Valley)





# 2025 MACS TEACHER CONVENTION

**October 15—16, 2025**

hosted by  
**Lake Region Christian  
School**



- **Date & Time:** Wednesday night, October 15, starting at 5:00 p.m. and ending Thursday, October 16, at 4:45 p.m.
- **Location:** Lake Region Christian School in Baxter, MN
- **Theme:** Unified in One Common Purpose – Psalm 133:1
- **Keynote speaker:** Mr. Jeff Keaton, CEO of RenewaNation Ministries  
*<https://church.renewanation.org>*
- **Thursday breakout sessions**
- **Meals:** Dinner served on Wednesday night and Lunch on Thursday (included in cost)
- **Cost:** \$65 per participant
- **Hotels\*:**

Rapid River Lodge and Waterpark and Baymont by Wyndham	
7376 Woida Rd.	7208 Fairview Rd.
Baxter, MN 56425	Baxter, MN 56425
\$89.00 + tax	\$89.00 + tax
30 rooms set aside	30 rooms set aside
(218) 825-7234	(218) 822-1133

\*Deadline to reserve one of these hotel rooms is 9/15.



# Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

## 2025-26 Events Calendar

**August 4, Monday**—Varsity Soccer/Volleyball preseason practices may begin

**August 15, Friday**—Rosemount Jamboree (Varsity Soccer & Volleyball) & MACS meeting at Rosemount

**September 12-13, Friday & Saturday**—Crusader Classic JH Soccer/Volleyball Tournament at Rosemount

**October 15-16, Wednesday evening & Thursday**—MACS Teachers' Convention in Brainerd/Baxter (during MEA weekend)

**October 20, Monday**—last scheduled conference game for Varsity Soccer/Volleyball. Seeding will take place on the 21st.

**October 23-24, Thursday & Friday**—MCAC Varsity Playoff games—played at higher seed; Losers go to Tier II Tourney; Winners to Tier I Tourney

**October 30-November 1, Thursday-Saturday**—MCAC State Varsity Soccer & Volleyball Tier I & II Tournament at Rosemount

**November 7, Friday**—MACS Band Festival at Fourth Baptist

**November 8, Saturday**—Schools may have Varsity Basketball tryouts

**November 10, Monday**—Varsity Basketball team practices may begin

**November 13, Thursday**—MACS SH Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

**December 5-6, Friday & Saturday**—MCAC JV Basketball Tournament at Chisago

**January 23-24, Friday & Saturday**—Crusader Classic JH Basketball Tournament at Rosemount

**February 17, Tuesday**—last scheduled conference game for Basketball seeding on the 18th

**February 20-21, Friday & Saturday**—MCAC Varsity Playoff games—played at higher seed; Losers go to Tier II Tourney; Winners to Tier I Tourney

**February 26-28, Thursday—Saturday**—MCAC Girls Tier I & II Basketball Tournament at Cambridge Christian School

**March 3, Tuesday**—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount

**March 5-7, Thursday—Saturday**—MCAC Boys Tier I & II Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist Christian School

**March 23, Monday**—Spring Sports preseason practices may begin

**April 10, Friday**—MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist

**May 1, Friday**—Track Meet at Granite City Baptist Academy, St. Cloud

**May TBD**—MCAC Varsity Girls Soccer Tournament at TBD

**May TBD**—MCAC Varsity Boys Volleyball Tournament at TBD

