

News & Notes

February 27, 2009

IDEAS FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Make School a Priority

With spring right around the corner, it can be hard to keep children focused on learning. What can you do to make school a top priority for your kids? Keep these simple ideas in mind—they're useful at any time of the year.

Make attendance job #1. Let your youngsters know that unless they're sick, they must go to school. Try to schedule routine dentist and doctor appointments after school hours. If possible, take family vacations during school breaks. *Tip:* Give awards for perfect attendance each month. Try a "Job Well Done" certificate or a coupon good for a night of bowling or a movie.

Show you care. Want your children to know that you're interested in their learning? Talk about their school activities and projects. Attend as many school

events as you can. If homework and after-school activities conflict, speak up: "I know you have baseball practice this evening, but homework comes first. After you finish, I'll take you to practice."

Keep it upbeat. Try to set a positive example for your children, even when your own day has been difficult. Instead of saying, "I had a hard day at work. I'll never get my project done," try, "Work was hard today, but I made some progress on my project." If you show a positive attitude about your work, your youngsters may feel better about their own.

Beat the Morning Rush

A calm and happy school morning begins the night before. Go to bed knowing everything's in order with these tips:

- Check the weather forecast



and help your child choose clothes, coat, and shoes.

- Have him/her stow his/her backpack by the door. Be sure she has put in homework, lunch money, and permission slips.
- Together, plan breakfast, and pack a healthy snack or lunch.
- Test your youngster for tomorrow's quiz one last time.

Note: In the morning, set the oven timer to go off five minutes before your child has to leave. That will be the signal to put on socks and shoes and head out the door.

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"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint".

Isaiah 40:31



School Calendar	
Feb. 28	Quiz Bowl @ Thomas Jefferson HS
March 2-6	Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
March 2	HS Spring Sports Mtg. - Rm. 318 - 3:45
March 3	Teacher & Staff Luncheon
March 3	MS GBB vs Trinity @ Omaha Sports Academy - 4:30 pm
March 5-8	HS Band Tour
March 6	Quiz Bowl @ Bellevue University - 9:00
March 9	Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
March 10	District Speech Meet @ Cross Country - 7:00 am
March 11	Elem. & MS Music Adjudication - 8:00
March 12	Elementary Speech Meet
March 12	Red Wheel Pick-up - 3:00-5:30 pm
March 13	4th Grade to NE State Historical Museum & NE State Capital Bldg. - 8:30
March 16	No School Elementary
March 16	NFC Band Clinic @ OCA - 2:00 pm NFC Band Concert @ OCA - 7:00 pm
March 18	HS Music Adjudication - 8:00 am
March 19	6th & 7th Grade to Morrill Hall & NE History Museum- 8:00 am
March 19	Boys Soccer @ Brownell-Talbot - 4:30
March 20	Quiz Bowl @ Wesleyan - 9:00 am
March 21	Track Meet @ NE Wesleyan U. - 9:00
March 24	Kindergarten Roundup - 1:30 pm
March 30	NFC Quiz Bowl @ College View - 4:00
March 31	Boys Soccer @ Conestoga - 4:30 pm
April 3	No School Elementary & MS
April 3	Christian Arts & Academic Meet
April 4	Quiz Bowl @ Lincoln - 9:00 am
April 6-10	No School - Spring Break
April 6	Boys Soccer @ Ralston - 5:30 pm



Two Art Exhibits Coming Soon

Nebraska Frontier Conference @ OCA, March 16

*Christian Arts & Academic Meet
at Trinity Christian School, April 17*

Details

1. NFC Art Exhibit @ OCA, March 16
(Grades 6-12)

Deadline:

Submit entries to Mr. Dods by March 9.

Rules:

- Top 20 entries will be selected on March 11 to represent OCA at the NFC Art Exhibit.
- All categories (paint, drawing, craft, clay, wood photography...)
- No Entry Fees
- 5 ribbons awarded at Exhibit for "Viewer's Favorites" (Grades 9-12 only)

2. Christian Arts & Academic Meet @ Trinity School, April 17 (Grades K-8)

Deadline:

Submit entries by March 9:

- Grades K-5 to classroom teacher
- Grades 6-8 to Mr. Dods

Rules:

- Six pieces per classroom selected by classroom teacher
- Maximum two pieces per student
- \$2 fee per artwork (submit with artwork by March 9)
- All categories eligible (no kits)
- All work will be judged and awarded ribbons.

Notes:

** Grades 6-8 eligible for both exhibits. Submit work for both at same time.*

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Excellence in Christ-centered Education

Guidance Corner

⇒ EducationQuest Foundation has partnered with Nebraska Educational Television to produce a humorous and comprehensive overview of how to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This brand new 10-minute "webisode" is designed to calm some of the fears high school seniors and their families have when completing the FAFSA. Check out:

The FAFSA Made Easy on "Youtube" at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iASmJ2GR3O4>.

Calendar:

- Feb. 27 - ACT Registration Deadline for April 4 Test
- March 13 - Late ACT Reg. Deadline for April 4 Test
- March 18 - Metro Rep Visit
- March 23 - Missouri State University Rep Visit
- March 31 - SAT Reg. Deadline for May 2 Test

Booster Club's Fan of the Game

Congratulations to Booster Club's "Fan of the Game", Colin Brown.



School Lunch Menu

	Entree	Sides/Dessert
March 2	HOT— Chicken Patty on a Bun COLD—Turkey Club Sandwich	Baby Carrots Applesauce Chocolate Chip Cookie
March 3	HOT— Breaded Beef Patty COLD—Chicken Caesar Salad	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Orange Wedges Dinner Roll Fruiti-O-Bar
March 4	HOT— Pizza Hut Pizza COLD— Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich	Lettuce Salad Mixed Fruit Iced Apple Bar
March 5	HOT— Chicken with Rice COLD—Ham & Cheese on Whole Wheat Bread	Corn Fresh Strawberries Cinnamon Crumb Cake
March 6	HOT— Pasta with Marinara Sauce COLD— Chicken & Cheese Wrap	Green Beans Grapes Cheesy Garlic Bread Brownie

Students may choose yogurt & cheese stick as a main dish alternative.

Milk will be served with all meals.

Cost: \$2.60(Pre-K-5); \$2.75 (5-12); \$1.00 Extra Entrees

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

National Honor Society Invitations

All students in 10th – 12th grade with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher will be receiving a qualification letter by mail, inviting them to apply for membership in the National Honor Society. If interested, they will need to pick up a packet from Mrs. Jenkins or Mrs. Lovgren. In order to be considered for membership, all completed packets are due NO LATER THAN Wednesday, March 25 at 4:00 pm. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All completed applications will then be reviewed by the NHS Faculty Council. Students and parents will be notified in advance of the induction ceremony to be held on Wednesday, April 22.

Does Worldview Matter?

Many people believe that Christian schooling is about the choice by families to remove their children from the real world and place them in an environment that is more like a fort built to keep the “bad guys” out—the bad guys of course being representative of everything bad, from real people to real ideas and all else imaginable in between. The fact is, Christian schooling, in regard to your children, is not about sheltering them from—rather, it is about preparing them for—real and effective living. Now, sheltering is not all bad. It is just that sheltering, at least in the sense of isolation from, is not a strategy that works over the course of a lifetime.

Christian schooling pursues that which does work for a lifetime—and that is the preparation of young men and women through an excellent education that is intellectually developing and spiritually forming. As your school integrates the academic realm with the spiritual and every other realm, including the social, the emotional, and the physical, the intent is to develop in your children the rudimentary elements of a Christian worldview—that perspective from which your children will view everything in life.

Consider, if you will, some of the most basic aspects of developing a Christian worldview and the fact that such an outlook is not something that just happens. Our first thoughts about education are often limited to subject content areas, or more simply expressed, the three Rs: reading, writing, and arithmetic. But when we limit consideration to those areas, we fail to note the impact of the overarching philosophical umbrella of a school and those who teach there. Rather than rehearse what might be happening in a philosophically secular, religiously neutral education setting, please consider instead what happens in your Christian school, which has a purposefully intentional philosophical position based on God’s Word and the truths of the Christian faith. The latter is a place where teachers are selected not only for their academic expertise but also for their faith and their pursuit of God, as well as their ability to integrate those spiritual dimensions into every learning experience. In this setting, the classroom is not merely a place where the right things are said and promoted but a place where the right things are also expressed in daily living by those who embrace and exude a Christian worldview.

For example, simply consider how much of schooling is about people. Then think about how that truth unfolds when consideration of those people is based on an articulate and strategic instructional format that continuously reinforces the fact—biblically based—that people, every single one of them, are created in the image of God. Now, seeing people as God’s image bearers offers a perspective about life different from a traditionally secular perspective. The Christian perspective encompasses teaching about healthful living: the appropriate care and nurture of people physically, mentally, and spiritually. We are not simply the result of chance. Rather, we are created ones, individually unique and by design created in the image of God. This perspective, nurtured and developed, builds godly attitudes about culture, race, age, physical and mental impairment, and economic deprivation. This perspective creates the right foundation for considering and developing strategies regarding community, care, and every aspect of relationships—all of which are so much a part of every realm of living.

When your school regularly puts before your children Jesus’ teachings such as “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’ ” (Matthew 22:37–39, NIV), the school is nurturing an appropriate perspective. These teachings of Jesus come neither automatically nor naturally, and our secular culture does not generally support or encourage them. These particular teachings by no means make up the sum total of worldview development, but the development of sound biblical perspective on these and multiplied other teachings, reinforced through example and modeling, become crucial in developing your children’s perspective of the matters of life—every observation, every response, every conclusion.

Yes, worldview does matter. And Christian schooling provides key support in making the worldview of your children Christian.



Ken Smitherman, President
Association of Christian Schools International