

BUILDING & Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Summer 2020 - Vol. 32, Issue 4

All dates are tentative and subject to cancellation due to COVID-19 restrictions

BCSO Board of Directors' Mtg
August 6
via Zoom

AACS National Legislative Conference
September 7-11
Online

BCSO Educators' Conference
October 2
TBD

BCSO Soccer/Volleyball Tournament
October 23-24
Lima

A full, downloadable 2-year calendar of events is available on our website.

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www.bcsoschools.org

Reopening guidance, resources available to BCSO schools

New Facebook forum for BCSO leaders aims to help one another

By Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

This school year is going to look different than previous years due to COVID-19. A document issued by the Governor provides official guidance. Entitled "COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools," it is the combined efforts of both the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Education: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>.

The Ohio Department of Education also has a link with their official guidance to schools for this fall: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart>. Another potentially helpful ODE resource is the Remote Learning Resource Guide: <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus/Ohio%E2%80%99s-Remote-Learning-Resources>.

[Supports/Coronavirus/Ohio%E2%80%99s-Remote-Learning-Resources](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf).

BCSO administrators and principals are also encouraged to join a Facebook group created by our BCSO page called, "BCSO Resources for Member School Admins & Principals." The purpose of this group is for BCSO school leaders to collaborate and share ideas that may be helpful and encouraging to others. Currently, the focus in this forum is on reopening plans for this fall in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, but posters to the group are certainly not limited to just COVID-related items. Helpful tips and words of encouragement are also welcome!

"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and instill into them just principles, we are then engraving that upon tablets which no time will efface, but will brighten and brighten to all eternity."

~ Daniel Webster

Legislative Update:

Big win for BCSO, other -08 schools in 5-year review; ODE votes 18-0 in favor of status quo

Submitted by Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

Every five years, the Ohio Department of Education (DOE) is required by law to review and re-approve its administrative code (as are all State Departments in Ohio), and this year our "08" (non-chartered, non-tax supported schools) section was up for review. There were those in the department wanting to change it in a way that was not helpful, so we communicated that we were not in favor of these changes.

The DOE was coming on strong to change the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) to align with (in their opinion) the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Our argument has been that our schools are neither "public, private, or parochial," or homeschools, for that matter, but are a fifth category. We (Izaak and I) testified before the full Board each of the past three months, most recently this past Tuesday (7/14/20, below), following which they voted. We were a little surprised when the vote came out 18-0 in our favor. We praise the Lord for His working in such a way!

Public Testimony before Ohio State Board of Education July 13-14, 2020 Regarding Amending 3301-35-08 (Five-year Review)

"President Kohler and Ohio Board of Education, thank you for giving us another opportunity to speak again regarding the proposed amendments to the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3301-35-08, the section pertaining to non-chartered, non-tax supported schools ("because of truly held religious beliefs").

The **non-chartered part** we love; it speaks of the fact that we don't ask the state's permission to teach our children, or look to the state for academic content or teacher qualifications. Non-chartered means non-licensed, and a license is a permission. Yet we are legally-operating, and we love that as well, because the state is an institution of God, and we as churches respect and work-together with the state and with families, the third great God-ordained institution. (I actually personally am interested and listen to what the state has to say regarding what it means to be educated, and I have great respect for the state-approved education community, and have things to learn from them, even though education is inherently religious, dealing with knowledge, values, attitudes, and vision.)

Our schools are **non-tax supported**, and don't even receive transportation or auxiliary service help, and we are not asking for it, which is shocking, even as we reach out to minister to broken and financially-impooverished situations. I often over the years have thought of the Bible story when Nathan the prophet told King David as he exposed his sin with Bathsheba, of the poor man who had a solitary, dearly-loved sheep, which was taken by the rich man who had many to fix for his guests—leave us alone! 08 is working, turning out educated, well-mannered citizens! Nothing needs changed! No stakeholders (the ones paying the bill) are asking for this to be changed.

To speak to another point raised earlier, I close with a second Bible story, this one featuring the children of Israel in Egypt, before the LORD delivered them through Joseph and Moses. It is written, "and there arose a pharaoh who knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). Perhaps making these "non-substantive" changes to the 08, rewording it with the understanding among those assembled here today that we are not changing anything is not a problem here today, but what about the future, when you and I are not the ones working together?

We are asking you to leave the 08 wording as it is."

Thank you,
Keith Hamblen
Buckeye Christian School Organization, Executive Director

Izaak VanderSchel
BCSO Legislative Director



EVENT REPORT: 2020 Jr/Sr High Fine Arts Competition

Submitted by Paul Shaver, BCSO Fine Arts Director

Three hundred ninety-two students from sixteen BCSO schools competed in the fourth annual BCSO Fine Arts Competition held at Heritage Christian School in Brooklyn on March 12-13. Collectively, the students competed in approximately 2,900 events including testing, projects, and scheduled events. Pastor Mark Falls, BCSO Treasurer, gave an appropriate message to the students from 2 Timothy 1:7 concerning God not giving us a spirit of fear but of power, and love, and of a sound mind. Congratulations go to the students of Heritage Christian School in Brooklyn who won the highest point trophy and to the students of Zanesville Christian School which won the highest average trophy. Congratulations also go to AnnaGrace Leszkowicz of Heritage Christian School (Findlay) and Zanesville Christian School's Truett Howell, who won the outstanding competitor awards. It was a great competition! All ratings were able to be viewed at bcso-results.com throughout the competition.

It certainly was a different competition in light of the coronavirus. "Through much counsel and prayer, we are continuing to go forward with the fine arts competition in Brooklyn (Cleveland) this Thursday and Friday. This seems to be the mind of the majority of our schools, and we are proceeding accordingly.

Factors which enter into this continuing decision include the much time, effort, and other investment put in by students, teachers, and others, and that it would be virtually impossible to reschedule this event. We continue to look to the Lord for wisdom, protection, and unity as we work through very difficult calls, for schools, parents, and our organization," wrote BCSO Director Keith Hamblen. Adjustments were made throughout the days to accommodate the concern, including dispensing with the final awards ceremony. Pastor Pete Folger of Cleveland Baptist Church presented an appropriate message in church on Wednesday night taken from John 16:33. His main points were Jesus gives Peace, not Panic and we should be Careful, not Careless. It was particularly insightful and helpful.

Thank you to all who used their God-given abilities for God's glory in helping with competition. A huge thank you goes to those students and adults from the participating BCSO schools for their tremendous help in helping the competition run smoothly. A special thank you goes to each judge who helped make the competition a huge success. A thank you goes to Principal Luke Brown, the HCS staff, students, and volunteers for their excellent work in hosting great competition. They are a gracious host. Words cannot fully express the deep sense of gratitude to all who helped with competition. You all are greatly appreciated!



EVENT REPORT: 2020 Creative Writing Contest results

by Jeremy Bickelhaupt, *Building & Battling* editor

Each year, BCSO students in grades 4-8 are encouraged to participate in this national contest. Students may submit either an original poem or short story. Here are the 2020 BCSO winners as selected by the American Association of Christian Schools:

ELEMENTARY:

Short Story: Jaylyn Wicks (5), High Street Christian Academy (Columbus).

Poetry: Katelyn Haas (5), Carroll County Christian Academy (Carrollton, OH)

JUNIOR HIGH:

Short Story: Delaney Connor (7), High Street Christian Academy.

Poetry: Kyla Zapsic (8), Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn).

The *Building & Battling* newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Buckeye Christian School Organization. Its purpose is to disseminate information pertinent to our member schools in efforts to "build" a good work, as well as to serve as a tool for "battling" the secular worldview that our culture impresses upon our students. Articles may be submitted for publication, but they will be subject to editing and approval. All submissions can be sent in MS Word (.doc) or PDF format to: pbcprogram@gmail.com