

BUILDING & Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Winter/Spring 2020 - Vol. 32, Issue 2-3

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

BCSO Elementary Speech & Spelling Contests
May 1
Carrollton

BCSO Fine Arts Review Mtg
May 14
Mansfield (a.m.)

BCSO Board of Directors' Mtg
May 14
Mansfield (p.m.)

AACS Youth Legislative Conference
July 6-10
Washington, DC

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

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Building objective undeterred by COVID-19

Fine Arts Competition succeeds in light of virus threat

By Keith Hamblen,
BCSO Executive Director

The week of March 8, 2020, was a huge building and battling week for BCSO. The governor had just begun announcing a state response to the coronavirus, and on Monday, National Bible Quizzing was held in Columbus. On Tuesday, also in Columbus, but downtown at the Department of Education, we gave testimony before the State Board of Education regarding 08, battling for its existence as it has stood for decades. At the same time much conferencing was happening regarding whether or not to go forward with the Fine Arts Competition in Brooklyn (Cleveland),

given the evolving coronavirus crisis. It was decided to go forward, with each school making its own decision as to participation. Three-and-a-half of the 16 schools elected to stay home, the half being a school officially not participating, but allowing students and staff to attend as they saw fit. Then the governor began announcing school and other closings, and each church worked through its response to these directives—and then to process further announcements that groups of 100 or more, then 50 or more, then over 10, and now (3/23/20), “just stay home!”

See 'COVID-19' on pg 5

“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

Continued from 'COVID-19', pg 1

As the 2020 Coronavirus Crises continues to unfold, let me report that the State Board of Education voted to table the undesirable-to-us changes until next month (a temporary victory) and the State Fine Arts Competition was magnificently hosted by Cleveland Baptist Church/Heritage Christian School under the superb

leadership of Director Paul Shaver (and team) and host Mr. Luke Brown (and team).

This historic story is now recorded in our *BCSO Newsletter* which serves as the record of our organization, which is a tool in the hands of local churches, **building** (the next generation of church leaders) and **battling** (to preserve and expand civil protections for our church ministries)!

Caught off guard:

handling emergency school closures with little notice

Submitted by Jeremy Bickelhaupt, *Building & Battling* Editor & Administrator of Ottawa County Christian Academy

Not all schools were ready to manage the emergency closures brought on by the coronavirus safeguards. Admittedly, ours wasn't. In fact, our small academy had no contingency plan in place for such an instance. So, when the decision to comply with state recommendations for school closure came down, we scrambled to formulate a plan of action.

Our issue seemed problematic from the onset. Ninety-percent of our instructional methods are taught via the traditional classroom setting. Most of our classes are taught by teachers using textbooks and tangible visual aids. Only a few of our seniors utilize online streaming and technology to complete coursework. How could we manage distance learning having no digital means of instruction- or for that matter, the know-how to implement it?

The answer was technology. It was available. We just had to embrace it.

We quickly set about creating HomeEd Packets to send home with students, but we didn't want them to just complete paperwork without having the necessary instruction that coincides with it. Thankfully we didn't have to look hard or far.

A few hours after Ohio shuttered its K-12 schools, we started receiving emails from various organizations offering resources and tools to help us formulate a plan

that included utilizing the technology we already had available.

I reached out to another BCSO school close by to get some ideas. Again, I am thankful for the fellowship and friendships made possible by the BCSO. The advice I received was helpful.

We found AACCS's website to be full of great videos, webinars, and blogs highlighting ways to incorporate distance learning initiatives. Abeka offered the use of its ProTeach for free to any of its customer schools who were in a pinch. Myschoolworx also provided technical help. Online learning platforms like Google Classrooms, Zoom, Loom, and many others were brought to our attention. These companies went above and beyond to help.

After much discussion and preparation, we formulated a great plan of attack that allowed us to use various platforms to upload videos of our own teachers. Our daily video instructions now correlate perfectly with the material in students' HomeEd Packets.

Institutional crisis averted. I am so grateful for God's wisdom and for all those who advised us. I am also indebted to all the various companies that made valuable resources available. This whole situation has forced us to facilitate a distance learning initiative by embracing technology that we were once reluctant about.

Hopefully there won't be a 'next time,' but should there be... we will be ready.



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: Athletics - Basketball Tournament Results

Agate submitted by Chris Brown, BCSO Athletic Director

The BCSO held its annual basketball tournament on Feb. 28-29 at Licking County Christian Academy. Below is a list of tournament winners and All-Tournament Team selections:

HS Boys Basketball

- 1st Place – High Street Christian Academy
- 2nd Place – Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn)
- 3rd Place – Wayside Christian School
- Sportsmanship Award – Wayside Christian School

All-Tournament Team

- Simon Fickel (Heritage - Minutemen), Judson Gregory (WCS), Luc Mach (Heritage - Patriots), Luke Ptack (Heritage Patriots), Logan McGraw (HSCA), Levi Mainous (HSCA).
- MVP** – Levi Mainous (HSCA)

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: keithhamblen@gmail.com.