

BUILDING & Battling

A quarterly publication of the



Winter 2022 - Vol. 34, Issue 2

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

**BCSO Basketball
Tournament**
February 18-19
Dayton

**BCSO Athletic Directors'
Meeting**
February 24
Mansfield

**BCSO National Bible
Quizzing**
February 28
Columbus

**BCSO Jr./Sr. High Fine
Arts Competition**
February 3
Brooklyn, OH

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

CONNECT WITH US!



www.bcsoschools.org

BCSGO now functioning

Contributions, Applications now being accepted

Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

Tuition tax credits and Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) now are available to those enrolling their children in Ohio's non-chartered, non-tax supported schools (08 schools). The tuition tax credit will allow families who enroll their children in non-chartered schools to claim up to \$1,000 tax credit against their state tax liability (to be subtracted from any state income tax otherwise to be sent to the state of Ohio). Much greater help will be available to families enrolling their children in 08 schools through SGOs properly set up, which is the case with our SGO, named the Buckeye Christian Scholarship Granting Organization. Tax credit contributions of up to \$750 can be made by any Ohio individual or pass-through entity (a business structure in which business income is treated as personal income of the owners) to an Ohio SGO, and the funds can be directed toward a specific school and even to a specific



student. Each SGO's own committee makes final determination but will heavily weigh donor requests.

A number of contributions were made to the BCSGO by December 31, 2021, so these contributions can be claimed on the Ohio state income tax return for the 2021 tax year. The credit is claimed on the Schedule of Credits. Instructions for claiming the credit have been published on the SGO website. Contributions made between January 1 and December 31, 2022 can be claimed for the 2022 tax

See 'BCSGO' on pg 2

"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

Ohio Department of Education releases report on Bishop Sycamore scandal; BCSO's response

Keith Hamblen, BCSO Executive Director

"Following significant media attention in September and in response to a request from former Superintendent DiMaria, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) conducted an investigation regarding Bishop Sycamore high school" (excerpted from a clear and accurate cover letter by Ohio State Interim Superintendent Stephanie Siddens). This investigation resulted in a report ("Memorandum") published by the ODE on December 17, search "bishop sycamore ode report"). This ODE report contains seven recommendations, some of which are obvious and appropriate, but others are unnecessary and destructive.

Following is our response to these ODE recommendations, which contains the recommendation embedded in our response. This report is a matter of great concern as the governor has said that he will seek to implement these recommendations. We are working prayerfully behind the scenes to resolve this satisfactorily to all, seeking to prevent this from becoming a major confrontation. Please pray to this end.

- **Recommendation No. 1:** The Department already has this authority (to not include Bishop Sycamore on the list of non-chartered, non-tax supported schools). (See my Recommendation No. 4 comments.)
- **Recommendation No. 2:** The Department already has this authority (to consult with the Attorney General regarding potential legal action against Bishop Sycamore).
- **Recommendation No. 3:** This change (to make the deadline for filing to be classified as a NCNT school two months earlier) will not solve the problem of giving the Department the "opportunity to try to address suspected issues of noncompliance before the first day of school" (part of Recommendation No. 3). If the state (ODE Office of Nonpublic Educational Options) is going to review all the schools applying

each year (for non-chartered status, as well as for homeschool and other private school options), two months will not give them enough time, and paperwork will not solve a Bishop Sycamore-type problem. (Monitoring schools claiming 08 protection is best served "monitoring" year-round. Site visits or contacting local fire departments for suspected misuse of this category would be more effective than evaluating paperwork.)

- **Recommendation No. 4:** The Department already has this authority (to monitor and enforce 08 compliance), in the sense that it can take off (or not put on) the non-chartered list any school that does not meet the 08 standard. An illustration of this authority in operation is on page 13 of the ODE report: "But after media requests to the Department about COF Academy's football team and the school's status, the Department conducted unannounced site visits of the school." "Following the visit, the Department issued a notice dated October 18, 2018, to COF Academy that the school would be removed from the 2018-2019 list of non-chartered, non-tax supported schools." This is what happened.
- **Recommendation No. 5:** The Department already has this authority (to publish a list of accepted 08 schools) and has done this at least for the previous six years. This is a good practice that should be continued.
- **Recommendation No. 6:** The Department already has this authority (not to recognize a school claiming to be an 08 school as an 08 school if it is not on the ODE list). Such schools already are prohibited from operating as non-chartered schools if they are not listed on the Department's list.
- **Recommendation No. 7:** The Department already has this authority (to not allow a removed school to be listed until the ODE has verified its meeting the 08 standard).

From 'BCSGO' on pg 1

year. Contributions can be made easily at ohiosgo.org The total amount that came in to our BCSGO the few days it was available for 2021 was \$41,322.41, designated for six of our schools, with amounts ranging from \$750 to \$26,584.69!

Here is a short video giving additional explanation of how this works for those unfamiliar with this concept: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0jpivqbg030pld/BCSGO%20Online%20video%20ad%20FINAL%20ALL%20SCHOOLS.mp4?dl=0>



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

Due to the reduced number of participating schools and students, the 2022 BCSO Jr./Sr. High Fine Arts Competition has been changed from a two-day event to a one-day competition.

Originally scheduled to take place on March 3-4, the competition is now slated for only Thursday, March 3 at Heritage Christian School in Brooklyn, Ohio. Arrival and check-in will be from 9:30-10 a.m. An opening assembly will be held in the church auditorium at 10 a.m. Students will compete throughout the day with the last event scheduled to wrap up at 7 p.m. There will be no closing assembly. Each school will be notified of winners and will be sent awards.

All photographs are asked to be submitted by Feb. 4; all art projects are to be submitted by Feb. 10. Directions for submission have been emailed to each school's art/competition director.

Parents and students are encouraged to work with their school principals for questions regarding the competition.

We are also looking for a permanent art headmaster for the annual competition. If you or someone in your ministry would be willing to head up this part of the annual competition, please reach out to Mr. Shaver.

BCSO schools urged to participate in 2022 Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention

This is the time of year many schools begin formulating or amending their operating calendar for the upcoming school year. One event that should not be overlooked is this year's regional educators' convention on Sept. 29-30.

Every three years, Christian educators from all over the Great Lakes region will assemble in Kalamazoo for a two-day convention that is geared to challenge and edify those who have surrendered to Christian education.

We are currently looking for workshop presenters and exhibitors. If you are willing or interested in conducting a workshop or exhibiting, or if you know someone who would like this opportunity, please contact Mr. Rick Ash at rick.ash@tcafremont.org or visit www.glcec.net. Registration will be open this spring, but workshop and speaker suggestions are now being taken.

Save the date! Let's make Ohio well-represented this fall at the 2022 GLCEC.

