

BUILDING &

Battling

A quarterly publication of the



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BCSO Elementary Speech & Spelling Competition
MAY 3
Carroll County Christian Academy
Carrollton, OH

**BCSO Fine Arts Review/
Board of Directors Mtg**
May 9
Temple Christian School
Mansfield

**AACS Youth Legislative
Training Conference**
July 8-12
Washington, D.C.

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

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BCSO still pressing state legislators for 'substantial financial relief'

By Izaak VanderSchel, BCSO Legislative Director

For the past several years, it has been our desire (and our effort) to investigate and encourage the introduction of legislation that would provide substantial financial relief for parents of students that attend non-chartered, non-tax supported (NCNT) schools. The possibilities of what that relief could look like have been varied, and several of those would be workable with the NCNT position. With a new General Assembly in Columbus, these efforts have begun again with renewed purpose and vigor – and have been met with friendly responses. In fact, at least one

state senator has offered to help us craft a model that would enable future financial aid for NCNT parents.

Initially, discussions with this legislator included simple tuition tax credits for families that enrolled their children in NCNT schools. This would not have been a complete relief of financial burden, but it would have been a significant savings for parents that have invested in the education of their children. However, when US Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced the proposal for Education Freedom Scholarships, talks turned toward

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"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

the best way to incorporate these possible funds in Ohio. The funding for these scholarships would be granted to states that have scholarship granting organizations (SGOs), but Ohio does not currently have SGOs as a school choice option. So, conversations are now being held to determine the best course of action to establish an SGO framework in our state to both pilot that type of program as a legitimate form of school choice

and prepare for future funding that might be available from the federal government. (Funding would be directed to individuals and corporations that donated to SGOs, and parental participation would be voluntary through applications for scholarships from the SGOs and not the government.)

All in all, neither option is off the table, but our energies will initially be directed according to the advice of our friends and allies in the

legislature and their willingness to pursue further action on our part. This initiative is certainly a process requiring much wisdom and patience. Please pray for those working on our behalf and for the legislators that are being contacted...and please be ready, when the time comes, to answer the call to action yourself.



EVENT REPORT:

Fine Arts:

Junior/Senior High Competition

Submitted by Paul Shaver, BCSO Fine Arts Director

Four hundred eighty-five students from twenty BCSO schools competed in the third annual BCSO Fine Arts Competition held at Heritage Christian School in Brooklyn on March 7-8. Collectively, the students competed in approximately 2,900 events including testing, projects, and scheduled events.

The buildings were a beehive of activity. 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 Truett Howell and Ida Howell of Zanesville Christian School, who won the outstanding male and female competitor awards respectively. All ratings may be viewed at bcso-results.com.

All first-place projects were projected onto the wall during the awards ceremony and top-rated groups and students performed as part of the closing assembly. The performances featured a Topical Preaching presented by Rusty Gibson of Heritage Christian School in Brooklyn; a Sacred Keyboard Duet performed by Ida and Truett Howell of Zanesville Christian School; a Vocal Group from Cozaddale Christian Academy; and a Dramatic Interpretation performed by Kyleigh Wilson of Marietta Christian School. Pastor Kevin Folger gave a challenge concerning how our relationship with Christ brings responsibility and accountability. BCSO Executive Director Pastor Keith Hamblen made remarks concerning what the BCSO is. He also recognized several men and their leadership responsibilities within the organization giving special recognition to the BCSO

Secretary/Treasurer, Tim England, who will be moving onto a new ministry. His service is greatly appreciated.

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 success. A final 'thanks' is extended to Principal Luke Brown, the HCS staff, students, and volunteers for their excellent work in hosting a great competition. Words cannot fully express the deep sense of gratitude to all who helped with competition. You all are greatly appreciated!

Changing of the Guard

BCSO board elects new president

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt, *B&B Editor*

The BCSO board of directors unanimously elected Pastor Robert Kurtz (Mansfield) as its new president on Dec. 6, 2018. Kurtz replaces Pastor Kevin Folger, who served as president for the organization since the merger of the Buckeye Christian School Association (BCSA) and the Christian Schools of Ohio (CSO) in 2017.

Folger is stepping down from the pastorate at Cleveland Baptist Church later this spring. The

board expressed appreciation for his faithful service to the BCSO, his leadership and his dedication to Christian education.

Kurtz has served as pastor of Mansfield Baptist Temple since August 2012.

Luke Brown (Heritage Christian School - Brooklyn) was also elected to replace Folger on the board.

In a concluding statement, Executive Director Keith

Hamblen, informed the board that BCSO Secretary/Treasurer Tim England (Heritage Christian School - Findlay) would be resigning at the end of this academic year. His service to the BCSA and BCSO was recognized at the board meeting as well as at the BCSO Fine Arts Competition on March 8.



Pastor Robert Kurtz
Mansfield Baptist Temple



Pastor Kevin Folger
Cleveland Baptist Church



EVENT REPORT:

Athletics - Basketball Tournament Results

Agate submitted by Chris Brown, BCSO Athletic Director

The BCSO held its annual basketball tournaments on Feb. 22-23 at Fayette Christian School in Washington Court House, OH. Below is a list of tournament winners and All-Tournament Team selections:

Junior High Boys

1st Place - Fayette Christian School
2nd Place - High Street Baptist Academy
3rd Place - Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn)
Sportsmanship - Temple Christian School (Dayton)

Varsity Girls Basketball

1st Place - Temple Christian School (Dayton)
2nd Place - Mentor Christian School
3rd Place - Fayette Christian School
Sportsmanship - Fayette Christian School

Varsity Boys Basketball

1st Place - High Street Baptist Academy
2nd Place - Temple Christian School (Dayton)
3rd Place - Heritage Christian School (Brooklyn)
Sportsmanship - Fayette Christian School

Boys Varsity Basketball All-Tournament Team

Lane Hufford (FCS), Daniel Szerzen (HCS-B), Joe Timmons (TCS-D), Noah Branham (TCS-D), Tyler Day (HSBA)
MVP - Sam Heckman (HSBA)

Girls Varsity Basketball All-Tournament Team

Emily Barker (FCS), Abigail Combs (MCS), Emma Hixson (MCS), Hannah Foister (TCS-D), Alexis Stepp (TCS-D), MVP- Aaliyah Stepp (TCS-D).

Three keys to boost enrollment

By Jeremy Bickelhaupt, Administrator - Ottawa County Christian Academy

Even before the current school year comes to a close, Christian schools are gearing up for the next academic year. The main focus for many of those schools is enrollment, and for most schools, this is a struggle. Of course, retention of current students is vital, and we tend to focus on keeping as many in the fold as possible, but uncontrolled circumstances often play part in losing families and students. From job relocation to financial limitations, the ability to retain every student from one year to the next is nearly impossible. This is why we have the *enrollment season*— the time when we actively recruit new families to enroll their children into our schools. The trend in recent years has seen a decline in enrollment, but consider three keys to boost enrollment at your school.

Pray. “Ye have not because ye ask not.” Be specific. Early in our academy’s history, I prayed for more students. God answered, but we soon realized that it was more important to have quality over quantity. Often we enrolled students of families who were not fully supportive of our educational philosophy, and we were battling fires all year long. In more recent years, I have asked God to send us the students that *He* desired us to have, ones whose families would be fully supportive of the school and its staff. Be mindful that this might result in God taking away caustic parents or students. Be specific in your request and God will bless!

Actively promote... all the time. It would be well-advised to eliminate the idea of an ‘enrollment season.’ Promoting our schools should be an everyday occurrence, not just when we are seeking more enrollees. This means packing your academic calendars full of meaningful events that are open to your

communities. It also means utilizing technology. In our social media-driven culture, this can be done very easily. Invest time (and a little money) into developing an attractive, interactive, and resourceful website. Make it professional-looking and – most importantly— *maintain it*. Keep it updated and fresh. When people visit your school website, they should feel confident about the product you are selling. Do the same with social media. Create school accounts and pages that are kept current with daily posts. Keep people informed about what your school is doing! If someone is interested in Christian schooling and they visit your page, will they be impressed with the content? Will they learn something positive about what your school offers from your social media posts? *Regular* posts and a *maintained* website are great ways to be in a constant state of promotion.

Always be ready. Your school should always be ready for the *unexpected* walk-through from potential parents and students. Keep the building and grounds maintained and organized at all times. Classrooms, offices, playgrounds, cafeterias, kitchens, and other important educational facilities should always have a tidy appearance. In reference to people, the token phrase is “*dress to impress.*” The same approach should be taken in regards to our buildings and grounds. Sometimes the choice to enroll comes down to the first impression. Be on top of your game in this area.

Our opportunity to affect more students with an effective Christian education lives and dies on how well we recruit. Be proactive in the areas mentioned above and watch the Lord bless your school with the students He desires you to have.





EVENT REPORT: National Fine Arts Competition

Submitted by Paul Shaver, BCSO Fine Arts Director

Students from Buckeye Christian School Organization (BCSO) competed in the 42nd annual American Association of Christian Schools National Competition held at Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C. on April 9-11, 2019. Schools representing BCSO were: Carroll County Christian Academy; Fayette Christian School; Heritage Christian School, Brooklyn; Heritage Christian School, Findlay; Licking County Christian Academy; Lima Christian Academy; Marietta Christian School; Mentor Christian School; Temple Christian School; Temple Christian Academy, Fremont; Victory Christian School; and Zanesville Christian School. The BCSO finished in 8th place with 25 points.

Approximately 2,200 students and sponsors from 30 states participated in the AACCS National

Competition, after having captured top honors in their state competitions. The students—representing over 200 Christian high schools—competed in 76 categories in the five basic areas of Bible, music, speech, art, and academics.

The Bible competition included Bible quiz teams, preaching, and teaching. Academic competition included academic testing and a science fair. Music students challenged each other in solo and group competitions for both vocal and instrumental music. Speech contestants participated in such categories as debate, dramatic interpretation, original oratory, acting, plus other categories. Art students displayed their pieces for the art contest.

Congratulations to each student for a job well done!

BCSO Student Results at AACCS National Fine Arts Competition

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>
Maria Jose Rojas Ayala	Heritage (Brooklyn)	Spanish	1 st
Zachary Conklin	Temple (Fremont)	World History/Geography	1 st
Elisabeth Fickel	Lima	Garment Construction	2 nd
Ida Howell	Zanesville	Sacred Piano Solo	3 rd
Ida Howell	Zanesville	Political Science/Economics	3 rd
Ida Howell	Zanesville	New Testament Bible Knowledge	1 st
Ida Howell	Zanesville	Oral Interpretation of Scripture	1 st
Brycen Hurst	Mentor	Sculpture	3 rd
AnnaGrace Leszkowicz	Heritage (Findlay)	Still Life Photography	2 nd
Sam Shaferly	Heritage (Findlay)	Woodworking	3 rd
Ryan Schweitzer	Heritage (Brooklyn)	Accounting	1 st
Christine Wehrly	Heritage (Findlay)	Watercolor	2 nd



EVENT REPORT: Elementary/JH Creative Writing Contest

Zanesville Christian School's **Truett Howell** (8th grade) took third place for his poem in the AACCS's 2019 Elementary/Junior High Creative Writing Contest. His poem earned top honors in Ohio in the Junior High Poetry category.

Ohio's other winners—all from Ottawa County Christian Academy—were **Hannah Jeffries** (6th grade) in Elementary Short Story, **Abigail Webster** (6th grade) in Elementary Poetry, and **Carmen Bickelhaupt** (8th grade) in Junior High Short Story.