

SPRING 2009

Memorial Christian Academy

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

A Passion for Excellence

**MCA Strengthens Bonds—
From Iraq to Home**

High School Moving On

**MCA Theater Department—
A Hard Act to Follow**



CONTENTS

3 MCA Strengthens Bonds—
From Iraq to Home

4 MCA Sports



6 High School Moving On

6 Theater Department

7 Math Olympics

7 Science Fair

8 Campus Life



10 Operation Shoebox

10 Student Council

11 PTVO



11 Enrollment Information

A Message from the Administrator



Welcome to Memorial Christian Academy. We have arrived at that time of year when parents begin exploring educational options for their children. The main business of education is to communicate ideas from one generation to the next. For that reason, our entire educational program is based on a biblical philosophy of education. This philosophy requires that our teaching must connect the subject matter with a biblical principle.

From kindergarten through twelfth grade, your child will spend about 16,000 hours in the classroom. Where do you want your child to spend that time? Do you want all of your child's teachers to have the same values and belief system that you do? Do you want biblical principles to be incorporated into child's curriculum? Do you want your child to pray and be led in prayer?

We have heard it said that the best way to prepare children for the anti-Christian world in which we live is to educate them in a non-Christian environment. Nothing could be further from the truth. The facts are clear. Those who are educated in Christian schools are better able to handle the storms of life because they have a foundation in Christ and his word. Matthew 7:24-27 says there are two kinds of builders: those who build on a solid foundation and those who don't. These two kinds of builders represent a critical difference between parents who choose Christian education and those who choose a "values neutral" public education.

At Memorial Christian Academy our goal is to provide each student with a safe and inviting environment in which to learn and grow. Along with developing a passion for Christ, we offer aggressive academic studies, chapels, and extracurricular activities such as sports, fine arts and technology, to give students the opportunity to express their God-given gifts and talents. Our desire is to team with parents to nurture, inspire and equip their children to be all that God intends them to be.

Choosing the right school for your child is a very important decision. We invite you to visit Memorial Christian Academy and experience our "Passion for Excellence."



Mr. Jackie Schiller

MCA Strengthens Bonds — *from Iraq to Home*

MCA is located near Ft. Hood, Texas which is the largest military base in the United States. Many of our students have moms and dads who deploy, often at the same time. MCA is proud of the sacrifice of our military family students and proud to share the touching story of just one of these families.

Anne Marie Thompson who is currently a 3rd grader was just starting 2nd grade when something special happened at MCA. Anne Marie's mom was deployed to Iraq and she writes; "I was up

late checking emails and making phone calls when I called home to tell Anne-Marie 'Happy Birthday' but my mom said she was already at school. I didn't know if I'd get the chance to call her after she got out of school and I didn't want her to think I'd forgotten her birthday. I got the number to the school office and called. I was hesitant at first to call her at school because my husband had enrolled her at MCA after I deployed. I had never had the opportunity to meet the staff and no one there knew who I was. I hated to drag Anne Marie out of class, but I couldn't think of a better birthday present than to call her at school since I couldn't be there myself.

Through the delays and an okay phone connection I told the secretary who I was and why I was calling. She hurried and got Anne-Marie for me so I could talk to her. It broke my heart when in the middle of our conversation the connection was lost! I immediately (well... as immediate as can be from Iraq) called back though and I remembered the office staff

saying they had just sent her back to class but one of them would run down the hall and catch her for me. Anne-Marie was brought back to the phone and we finished our talk and I told her to have a great day and that I loved and missed her very much. That was a really hard call for me because I just wanted to be there and I knew I couldn't.

Later, someone in the office emailed me a picture of Anne-Marie that she had taken while we were on the phone together. Just seeing that amazing smile was all I needed to know that everything was okay. I knew then, that Anne-Marie was in a good place when the staff would go so far out of their way to do something like that for a parent they had never even met yet."

"Just seeing that amazing smile was all I needed to know that everything was okay."



Teaching Life Skills through Athletics

Athletics at Memorial Christian Academy is an important part of the overall education we strive to provide. It is an extension of the school's high quality, Christ-centered educational program that seeks to bring honor and glory to God. Outside of the physical benefits attained from participation in athletics – character traits such as responsibility, dependability, work ethic, determination and inner strength can be developed.

At MCA, we are proud to offer a variety of athletic activities. Our goal is to offer every student, regardless of athletic ability, the opportunity to experience the joy and excitement of athletic competition. Student athletes at Memorial are winners the moment they show up for practice, put on a uniform, or step out on the field or court. Winning is not defined as much by the score as it is by the effort and desire displayed. Col. 3:23-24 **And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Outstanding Christian coaches volunteer their time to not only teach our students the skills to play the game, but to help them learn valuable lessons that can be applied throughout their lives.

Luke 12:48 says...for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.

God has blessed my life tremendously over the years. He has given me a beautiful and loving wife, four very wonderful children, great health and security. My time has come to give back. I am committed to providing your children with the finest sports programs possible and then to use those programs to help them find the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Jackie Shiller
Athletic Director





High School Programs

- Tackle Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track
- Soccer
- Cheerleading

Middle School Programs

- Tackle Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track
- Soccer
- Cheerleading

Elementary School Programs

- Flag Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cheerleading

High School Moving On

Memorial Christian Academy is unwavering in its commitment to provide a quality Christian education for our students. Because of that commitment and after years of planning, we are pleased to announce that Memorial Christian Academy will be enrolling through 11th grade in the 2010-2011 school year and through 12th grade in the 2011-2012 school year.

Our goal is to develop graduates who are fully prepared to continue their education at the

Our relationship with our students is based on a collaborative approach that sets and maintains high expectations and positive expectations of our students.

collegiate level, who demonstrate a commendable moral and spiritual character, and who view life from a well thought out Christian viewpoint. Whether one speaks of historical truth, scientific truth, literary truth, or theological truth, truth is absolute and not subject to constant revision and change. Our graduates will understand how to think truthfully, critically, and independently.

As our culture is increasingly entangled in the web of political correctness, we will employ a curriculum that is not bound by such constraints. Our curriculum will be free to be academically honest, while looking at the world in a Christian context. For example, one cannot study the history without understanding the effects of Christianity and other religious

movements on that history. To that end, we are selecting our texts and curricular materials from a variety of Christian publishers, each representing the best available work in each academic discipline.



MCA's educational team is guided by the idea that each student is special, has God given strengths and talents that must be developed and challenged, and can benefit from the individualized attention they will receive at Memorial Christian Academy. We will continue that trend in the high school grades and will provide *Moving, cont. on page 10...*

MCA Theater Department- A Hard Act to Follow!

This year MCA has ventured into a new arena and launched a very successful Performing Arts Department. It consists of Theater, Dance, and Choir. The Theater debuted with Disney's 101 Dalmatians, the musical, for the Fall performance. It was a smashing success. For many of the cast members involved, this was their first on-stage experience; they had a great time and did a superb job dancing, singing, acting, and learning the ropes of the Theater. The enrollment

doubled for the Spring elective sign-up and the cast is currently working on a second musical, Lady Pirates of the Caribbean. This is an exciting time as we develop our vision for a full Theater, equipped with sound, lighting, a stage to hold a large cast, and eventually joining local one-act competitions through ACSI. The choir is doing several performances a year at hospitals,

charity events, and Spring concerts. They sing complicated and beautiful pieces that bring such joy to the listeners. We are excited to

see the Performing Arts program grow in the coming years and to see how well it has taken off in just its first year. Great things are to come!



Math Olympics

Memorial Christian Academy participated in the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Math Olympics for grades 3-8 on March 5, 2009. Early in the morning five students who had previously tested and qualified to compete left for Northwest Christian School in San Antonio. A total of over 300 students from South Central Region ACSI Schools were part of this written competition that assesses both mathematical computation and reasoning. The top five students in each category were ranked and received ribbons. All five of our students that qualified to compete also placed. One of our students placed first and the other four placed second in the competition. What an accomplishment after traveling for several hours. Our students worked hard and were recognized for their accomplishments during our morning assembly and our end of the year awards ceremony.

All five of our students that qualified to compete also placed.



Annual MCA Science Fair

MCA participates every year in a school-wide science fair. The lower elementary classes work on a single class project. While 3rd grade and higher begin their individual research and projects several months prior to the actual science fair. We follow the criteria established by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools

International) which calls for students to research a topic and then develop an original project in order to answer a scientific question or problem. Students who meet the criteria may advance to the ACSI district science fair held in the spring at a host school within our central Texas area.

Since the science fair became an annual event in 2001 we have seen students develop many kinds of projects from designing and building telescopes, models of volcanoes, magnetic trains, and DNA molecules to investigating bacteria, plant growth, animal behavior, and acid/base reactions. The MCA science fair is one way that we give our students the opportunity to study a topic of their interest and demonstrate their investigative and creative talents.



Campus *Life*





Operation Christmas Child

Each year Memorial Christian Academy participates in Operation Christmas Child. This program brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. Each year MCA students fill shoe boxes which are prayed over, shipped, and delivered across the globe. Students of all ages are involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ.



MCA Student Council

The Memorial Christian Academy Student Council is both a student government mechanism and a service organization. The council has sponsored such events as a middle school/high school social, a field trip to Austin's Parks and Pizza, spirit week, and candy gram fund raisers. They have been involved in service projects collecting food for the local Food

for Families food drive and then volunteering at the collection site; being involved in the Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoebox drive; and volunteering time at school events. Student Council is an opportunity for middle school and high school students to develop leadership skills while serving the MCA community.



...Moving, cont. from page 6

an environment that fosters the healthy and balanced development of each student academically, socially, and spiritually.

Our relationship with our students is based on a collaborative approach that sets and maintains high expectations and positive expectations of our students. We seek to model grace while holding students accountable for their work and actions. We have three core expectations—that each student is respectful, prepared for coursework, and safe in all their actions. From those core expectations, we have a foundation for a learning community free of many of the potential distractions that hinder learning for many young people.

We invite you to contact us to discuss how we can support your family's educational needs. We look forward to answering any questions you may have. We are excited about what is happening at Memorial Christian Academy's Middle and High School.

Serving in Christ's Strength,

Doyle Banks
Director, Middle and High School

PTVO

What is the PTVO? It is Memorial Christian Academy's Parent Teacher Volunteer Organization. We are a group of highly motivated parents and teachers who want to make MCA the best school that it can be! This school year we have achieved many goals such as having the children help with a service project for the community, hosting many successful school events and raising money for new playground equipment. Most importantly we are making MCA a fun place for friends, family and students to fellowship at the many activities that we sponsor.

Our fun and exciting annual events include an International Potluck dinner, Warrior 5K Run

with a Fun Run for kids, The Christmas Store, and we end the year with our Carnival which was a HUGE success this year. The PTVO plans many events that are ongoing throughout the school year such as the Family Movie Nights, The Clique (a night out just for our Middle and High Schoolers), All

Day Scrapbooking, Monthly Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, and many others.

We don't just plan and put on events we also raise money for

our school by fundraising, collecting Box-Tops and selling concessions at our sporting events. As you



can see the PTVO is a high energy organization that wants the best for our school and staff. This is a perfect way for you to get yourself "plugged in" around MCA. Anytime that you spend volunteering counts towards MCA's volunteer policy of two hours per parent so come and visit us-- help us to help MCA become the best Christian education that your child can receive!!

We don't just plan and put on events, we also raise money for our school.

Enrollment Information

New enrolling students may make enrollment appointments by calling (254) 526-5403.

Application and Parent Handbook available online at www.mcawarriors.com

Enrollment requirements for current students:

- *Completed application- new one required each year
- *Enrollment and application fees paid
- *Current shot records, SSN card, birth certificate and physical exam dated within 12 months. (these items required by licensing)

Enrollment requirements for new students:

Items above and family interview, previous report card & testing for students 1st & above.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School Spirit Shirt with jeans or Khaki colored pants, shorts, skirts or capris. White socks, tennis shoes that are white or black in color. Only school logo hoodies, sweatshirts and jackets may be worn inside the classroom. School uniforms are ordered from the school office and range in price from \$10 for a basic t-shirt to \$25 for a zip up hoodie.

LUNCH

Upon enrollment each family automatically gets a family lunch account. Each morning when the teacher takes roll she will mark each child who wants a hot lunch. The lunchroom will then prepare a lunch for each child who wants a hot lunch. Then your family lunch account will be charged \$2.50 for each meal. Alternatively you may pack a home lunch for your child.

TUITION PAYMENTS

MCA offers 2 options for paying school tuition fees. Option 1 is the pay in full option. Parents pay the entire tuition up front and receive a discount. Payment in full must be made no later than Aug 1st to qualify. Option 2 FACTS draft. Option 2 offers 9 equal monthly payments for tuition. Payments run from September thru May. All enrollment fees must be paid to secure a class slot.



P.O. Box 11269
Killeen, Texas 76547

Comments from Happy Parents

“We have thoroughly enjoyed Memorial Christian, and as a military family on the move frequently, we appreciate the thoroughness and understanding that the teachers and administration show toward our lifestyle. The academics are great, and the follow-up is terrific with parents. Only wish we could transplant this school to our next duty station.”

“Great school — much higher quality of education. Small classes but not too small. Lots of extras that don't cost a dime.”

“Our son went to Pre-K and has had a good experience overall. They use the ABEKA curriculum which is an excellent tool for learning. Our son has already learned how to write in cursive and has begun reading. We would recommend this school for any parent looking for a good Christian-based school environment.”

“My children are attending Memorial for the second year in a row. The academics are outstanding with both my children testing far above average. The extra curriculums are growing and they now have football, volleyball, soccer and basketball. One really great feature is that the school offers Computer Lab (each child has their own laptop), Spanish, Performing Arts as well as a great science lab. The Christian education is great and I would recommend this school to anyone who wants the best education for their child.”