

State of the School Address to Parents

Thursday, January 27, 2011
Westside Christian Academy

Pastor Mark Bordeaux welcomed parents and opened the meeting in a word of prayer.

Interim Principal, Maureen Dunton Thanked everyone for attending and introduced the Academy Team members - Mrs. Karen Hill, chair, Mrs. Gwen Herod, Mrs. Bambi Reed, Mrs. Nadine Wilson, Mrs. Debbie Bordeaux, Mr. Tim Rider, Mrs. Shirley Stewart as well as Assistant Pastor Aaron Reed.

Mrs. Dunton gave an overview of Achievements that Westside Christian Academy has attained since August of 2009. (Please refer to slide show hand out for specific points)

Mrs. Karen Hill, Academy Team Chair, addressed the parents on the present status of the school with a power point presentation entitled "Where We Are" (for specific points please refer to the slide handouts)

Specific time was given to announce that there will be some fee changes and that **Deferred Payments** will be made available for registration fees. Registration fee could be broken down into three payments paid over 3 months rather than one sum up front upon registration. There will also be a separate **Matriculation Fee** to ensure that each student's classroom slot is held. In a desire to assist parents with the burden of **tuition payments, tuition will be divided into 12 monthly payments** rather than 10 as it presently is. Mrs. Hill was excited to announce that there will also be a **Referral Credit** offered to families who refer new students to WCA. If a new student enrolls in WCA and has noted on his or her enrollment form that they were referred by a current WCA family the family that had referred that student will receive a tuition credit. (Specific amount has yet to be determined)

Monday, February 1st is the first day of Early Registration. That is, registration of existing students, siblings of existing students and children of Westside Baptist Church members. Packets will go home with students on that day.

Mrs. Nadine Wilson announced that she is planning a golf tournament to raise funds for the school. She asked that parents and staff members sign up to help with that endeavor.

The search for a Principal continues both inside and outside the Academy. More detailed information on that subject will be available by the end of February. That discussion was tabled as there are steps that need to be taken by the church leadership before further discussion can be held.

Mrs. Hill announced the **desire to keep Extended Care open during school holidays** to better assist families. **The possibility of serving breakfast** was brought up. The Academy Team and staff members have noticed that this is a need for some families who must bring their children to Extended Care's early morning care.

Mrs. Hill continued to address the parents with a slide show presentation about what the future holds for Westside Christian Academy. She stressed that we are a Christian School and therefore, our plans are in the hands of a Holy God. We prayerfully plan for our future moving forward only under His direction. We are striving to keep all our steps in line with Him. **Plans for a High School remain in the future. However, no specific date was given.** Parents were strongly implored to keep students in

WCA through the 8th grade in order for them to be prepared for High School outside of our campus. The instruction that is provided here, both academically and spiritually will enable them to become stronger more proficient High School students. Mrs. Electa Riggs asked to speak and reminded parents that her son, James, was the only male in the 8th grade. That she had considered taking him out of WCA but was so thankful that they decided to keep him here. She believes that because of the personalized instruction that he gets here, and the spiritual guidance that is available here on a daily basis he will be well prepared to enter whatever High School they choose to enroll him in. She is sure that he will be successful and attributes that security to the fact that she and her husband decided to keep James here as long as possible. She suggested that all parents keep their students in WCA as long as they possibly can.

It was announced that there will be some minor modifications made to the location of some of the classrooms next year. The third grade classes will be moving out to the portables and the first grade classes will be moving inside. Also fifth grade will not be considered Middle School next year. The fifth grade will have one homeroom teacher who will instruct all the core classes and that grade will be included in the elementary classification. They will dismiss at 2:30 with the rest of the elementary classes. Fifth grade will still have related arts on a rotational schedule.

Middle School (grades 6-8) will go to a modified block schedule. The details of that schedule have yet to be determined as the number of students in each grade plays a part in how many teachers are needed as well as how many classrooms are required. When we have a good idea of how many middle school students we will have next year we will be better equipped to come up with a useable schedule. Mrs. Regina Thomas, the middle school lead teacher, has already begun working on various options. She along with administration will continue to adjust schedule options as needed until they create one that suits the needs of our students and staff.

Mrs. Hill spoke briefly of the finances referring to a financial hand out Mrs. Hill was unable to answer specific questions due to the fact that the financial secretary, Mrs. Shelley Allsbrooks, was unable to attend the meeting due to the illness of her son. Mrs. Hill assured everyone that if they had specific questions related to finances that they could be brought to Mrs. Allsbrooks at a later date.

A pie graph showed how tuition dollars are used ...

- *Salaries and Payroll – 77%
- *Operational costs – 10%
- *Building and Utilities – 5%
- *Educational Expenses - 7%
- *Reserve – 1%

Mrs. Hill reminded everyone that WCA is enrollment driven. All that we do in terms of financial planning depends on the number of students that are enrolled and who plan to enroll.

Pastor Aaron Reed stepped in to reiterate that being enrollment driven makes it difficult to plan for the future. He announced that this year there will be a section of the reenrollment form where parents can make their intentions known as far as enrollment is concerned even if they are not able to produce the necessary fees at this time. It would be very helpful to the Academy Team, Administration and Pastoral Staff to have more accurate numbers in terms of enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year. When enrollment packets are sent home on the First of February Pastor Reed implored parents to return the letter of intent even if they were unable to find the funds in their household budget for the fees due

upon registration. These letters of intent will help them plan a more accurate budget for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Dunton thanked everyone for coming and opened the floor for questions. When there were none she implored parents to ask questions.

Mr. Ryan Fowler asked if there was a timeline for bringing a High School. The answer was given that it will depend on when God supplies all the space, equipment and staffing necessary to enable us to provide the quality of education that is the standard at WCA. We will not do anything without being fully prepared; financially, structurally and fully staffed. To do otherwise would be to do a disservice to students and families. Mrs. Dunton spoke to the fact that we will not be able to open a viable High School until we are fully accredited as we would not be able to offer HS credits without it. That would not be in the best interest of our students.

That raised the question regarding Accreditation and when we would be fully accredited and what specific benefits there are to being accredited. Mrs. Dunton announced that the school is well on its way to being fully accredited and she along with Pastor Aaron Reed stated that they believed that the process will be completed by the end of the 2012 school year.

Bryan Robbins gave the SCACS website where parents can look to find the benefits of being accredited. www.Christianeducation.org/benefits

Mrs. Carolyn Lawrence asked if there were plans to create a capital funds campaign not just for buildings but also for staffing needs. Mrs. Dunton said that there was in fact a campaign for all those things. Mrs. Shirley Stewart is in the process of writing a letter to request donations from Grandparents, family members and business owners .

The question was asked about the current enrollment numbers. The enrollment stands at 256 as of the time of the meeting. Several new families have toured the school and it seems promising that they will in fact, enroll their students here, Praise the Lord.

Mrs. Cathy Walker asked if it was true that the enrollment was as high as 300 in the past. In fact the enrollment was as high as 372. Mrs. Walker also asked if we were going to place a sign welcoming the 3rd Army. Mrs. Dunton assured her and all that we have 100 signs to place all around town welcoming the 3rd army and advertising our church and school.

Pastor Mark asked parents to be sure and thank God for the men and woman that serve at WCA, especially Mrs. Dunton and the Academy Team who are working hard to prepare for next year while serving families and students today.

Pastor Aaron Reed closed the meeting in prayer.

Achievements since August 2009

- Over 10% of student body made professions of faith or were baptized
- Member of South Carolina Association of Christian Schools (SCACCS) and American Association of Christian Schools (AACCS)

Achievements since August 2009

- Faculty handbook created and distributed to all employees
- InfoDirect services provided (Web accessibility to student's homework, grades, school information and teacher message center)

Achievements since August 2009

- Intranet services/teacher tool accessibility via computer connections in each main building classroom
- Implemented a Middle School missions program
- 100% of faculty teaching in grades 1-8 hold bachelor's degree

Achievements since August 2009

- Completed accreditation self study
- Initiated ongoing professional development program
- Added nursery program; available to the public

Achievements since August 2009

- Auto billing services offered
- Collection on all past due accounts has been successful
- Enforced payment policies
- Instigated a Purchase Order system
- School has become financially solvent

Where We Are

We desire to glorify Christ through evangelism and discipleship.

- Programs offered:
 - Biblically sound education for nursery-8th grade
 - Active Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF)
 - Strong academics
 - Related Arts: Art, PE, Computer, Library, Music, Spanish

Where We Are

We desire to glorify Christ through evangelism and discipleship.

- Extracurricular: MS choir, Drama/AV Team, Praise Team, Preschool/Elem. Dance and Gymnastics, T- ball/baseball with Sumter PARD.
- Family Fun: 4th grade family gym night, Talent Show, class sponsored mission projects
- Nursery and Extended Care

Where We Are

We desire to glorify Christ through evangelism and discipleship.

- Faculty/Staff Training:
 - 1st-8th grade teachers have bachelor's degree and/or are state certified
 - 2010-11 Inservice training (5 days)
 - Teachers/Staff equipped for ministry

Plans for 2011-12

- 1st grade will be moved into building / 3rd grade will be moved to portables
- 5th grade will not be considered rotational with middle school
- Student Accident Insurance to be required (\$10 per student)

Plans for 2011-12

- Matriculation Fee for current and new students to reserve a space for your child
- Deferred payment option of 2011-2012 Registration Fee for currently enrolled students
- Tuition payments spread out over a 12 month period

Plans for 2011-12

- *Possibility of* extended care offered during school breaks (i.e. holidays), increased space available for additional 1K and 2K nursery classes, block scheduling in middle school, breakfast program offered
- Referral fee credited to current WCA families who refer newly enrolled families to our school

Plans for 2011-12

- Continue to work on SCACS accreditation with development of Academic and Administrative manuals
- Additional fund raisers led by Academy Team members

Where we think God wants us to be as He leads and provides (1-5 year plan):

Additional Programs:

- Fine Arts (chorus, drama, band, visual arts, etc.)
- Sports
- Guidance staff
- Student publications

Where we think God wants us to be as He leads and provides (1-5 year plan):

- Mission trip/service projects
- Student Government
- Campus to support library and computer lab
- Family Fun: reading or math/science night, game night, 3-on-3 tournaments, Father/Daughter dance, Parent Education night, etc.
- Accreditation

Where we think God wants us to be as He leads and provides (1-5 year plan):

Additional Faculty/Staff Training:

- Spirit-led individuals leading students/families to Christ
- Providing varied/individualized instruction
- Increase number of SCACS/state certified teachers
- Conduct search for principal

Where we think God wants us to be as He leads and provides (5-10 year plan):

High School:

- Staff of 4-6 certified teachers
- Core curriculum and electives for four grades
- Extracurricular activities
- Additional facilities
- Re-accreditation to ensure receipt of Carnegie credits

What we need to do to get there:

Take all of our needs and wants to our mighty God in prayer.

Additional Programs:

- Implement a School Improvement Plan
- Additional support staff
- Funds to start/support additional programs
- Spirit-led individuals to begin new programs

What we need to do to get there:

Take all of our needs and wants to our mighty God in prayer.

Additional Programs:

- Capital campaign to fund additional facilities
- Complete administrative and academic manuals for accreditation

What we need to do to get there:

Take all of our needs and wants to our mighty God in prayer.

Additional Faculty/Staff Training

- Attend SCACS/AACS training and complete continuing education hours to satisfy accreditation requirement
- Become more intentional about our mission and vision for WCA