



# NEWSLETTER

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## March-April

## 2013



### ADMINISTRATOR AGENDA

**Pastor Dennis D. Campbell**  
D. Min., M. Div., Central Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
B.S., South Dakota State Univ.  
Bob Jones University 2 years

This Friday marks the end of the third quarter. Looking back, the students did a fine job on the annual ***Patriotic Program***, providing vocal/instrumental and dramatic presentations for the pleasure of all present, including six special guests. The older students are diligently preparing for the April Accelerated Christian Education Regional Student Convention here in St. Cloud, where they will be competing in athletics, vocal/instrumental music, and speech/drama. You are invited to come to the ***Kindergarten-New Student Open House*** (flyer enclosed).



### **BALANCE IN ATHLETICS AND PHILOSOPHY**

The National Federation of High Schools has been sending me some interesting information. Robert B. Gardner wrote an article, "Playing Multiple Sports Offers Many Benefits." GCBA has had this philosophy from the beginning. The article said, "**The values of participating in high-school activity programs are well documented.** Generally speaking, these students have higher grades and better attendance, are more disciplined and self-confident, and have better chances for a successful career than those students who do not participate in sports or performing arts."



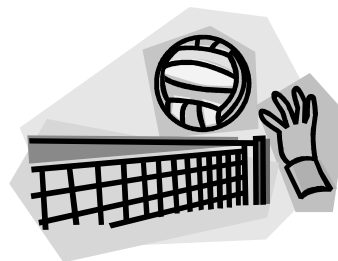
*...these students have higher grades and better attendance, are more disciplined and self-confident...*

"The benefits of multiple-sport participation include better leadership and teamwork skills from cross-training, reduced risk of burnout in one sport, a variety of experiences from involvement with different sports and teams, reduced risk of overuse injuries in one sport, and exposure to a variety of coaching styles."

In an article, "Life Without Interscholastic Activities Would Be Tragic", C.W. "Butch" Powell writes, " In today's economic climate, school systems across the country continues to look at the reduction of interscholastic activities as an effective way to make budget cuts.

According to a *USA Today* survey, 95 percent of Fortune 500 company chief executives have one thing in common: participation in education-based activity programs while in high school. Education-based activity programs provide an opportunity to learn valuable lessons that cannot be obtained in a classroom setting alone. Teamwork, sportsmanship, winning and losing while handling competitive situations, sacrifice and dedication are not the only lessons associated with participation.

According to the US Department of Education No Child Left Behind: "*The Facts about 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning*" in 2002, students who spend no time in activity programs are 49 percent more likely to use drugs, and 37 percent are more likely to become teen parents than those who spend one to four hours per week in activities. Activities are the other half of education, and participation should be strongly encouraged for all students."



*...students who spend no time in activity programs are 49% more likely to use drugs, and 37% are more likely to become teen parents...*



**Mrs. Amanda Webber, Supervisor**

**Preschool-Kindergarten Program  
Ages 4 & 5**

**Granite City Baptist Academy** uses the Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) curriculum. It is a wonderful curriculum that prepares pre-school students with a foundation for learning to read in kindergarten. The curriculum also gives the kindergarten student the ability to learn to read in a short amount of time. Below is information about our Pre-School and Kindergarten programs.

**ABC's with Ace and Christi Reading Readiness (Pre-School)**

The Pre-School Kindergarten with Ace and Christi program is a full-year kindergarten program featuring a complete scope and sequence of concepts and skills needed to prepare **K3-K5** children to read. After having taken the ABC's with Ace and Christi Reading Readiness Test and the Coordination Development Tests, five-year-old children who are entering kindergarten, and any children who are diagnosed "**NOT ready to read**," should be enrolled in the Pre-School Kindergarten program for a full year. The curriculum is filled with Bible and animal pictures, coordination development activities, and full-color picture stories, all of which encourage a love for reading. A child learns the phonetic sounds for all letters so that when he is ready to learn to read, he will do so. He also will learn social skills, the wonders of God's world, and the reality of God's love.

**Benefits - Foundation for Reading Readiness**

- Prepares child for the A B C's with Ace and Christi (**learning-to-read**) program
- Enables child to develop the skills, master the concepts, and achieve the level of physical development necessary for success in reading
- Lays a solid foundation on which to build the rest of a child's education

**ABC's with Ace and Christi (Kindergarten)**

Accelerated Christian Education's **learning-to-read** program is called *ABC's with Ace and Christi*. This is a multi-sensory, phonetic program, designed to prepare a child for the individualized instruction of the A.C.E. program. **This learning-to-read program should be attempted only after a child has been diagnosed "ready to read" using the Ace and Christi Reading Readiness Test.** Within a period of 12 to 15 weeks, he will become acquainted with phonics through animals, songs, and stories. These features will help him to learn and associate letter sounds, alphabet sequence, and word relationships. Additional activities have also been designed to help the student in his physical and character development. The *ABC's with Ace and Christi* utilizes a number of outstanding reading tools, such as a specially developed **\*alphabet sequence**, songs for each of the sounds, poems, displays, and physical activities. Additionally, character development activities and Bible stories are built in.

**Benefits - Foundation for Reading Mastery**

- Prepares your child for success in the Accelerated Christian Education PACE curriculum
- Enables your child to develop the skills, master the concepts, and achieve the level of physical development necessary for success in reading
- Lays a solid foundation on which to build the rest of your child's education

\*The specially developed alphabet sequence is one of the reasons the students are able to learn to read in a short amount of time. For example, the first four letters the students learn are the three phonetic sounds for the letter "A" and the phonetic sound of the letter "M". When those four sounds are made into blends, then the blends put into the words, they are able to read these words: **mama, may, aim, am.** (They also are taught about silent letters at this time so that they know that the "y" in may and the "i" in aim are silent and are not used to pronounce the words.) So within four lessons a student is able to begin to learn how to read.



*Lays a solid foundation on which to build the rest of a child's education.*

The next phonetic sound they learn is "s", and that gives them the ability to read the words: **say, same, Sam, mass, saw.** The curriculum continues with the specially developed sequence so that with each letter learned the student is able to read words with that letter in it.

As the kindergarten supervisor, it amazes me to see how quickly a student can begin to read words, as the foundation is laid for each phonetic sound of the alphabet. I am so thankful that A.C.E. from its beginning has maintained high Biblical and academic standards and remained committed to setting children on a path for success. The goal is the same now as it was when they began: to prepare children for the world today, and give them the academic and spiritual tools necessary to achieve their God-given potential. A.C.E. concepts are based on the following **Five Basic Laws of Learning**:

- A child must be at a **level** where he can **perform**.
- He must have reasonable **goals**.
- His learning must be **controlled**, and he must be **motivated**.
- His learning must be **measurable**.
- His learning must be **rewarded**.

I am also thankful that God gave Pastor Campbell the vision to start a Christian Academy and the wisdom to know the best curriculum to use. It is a blessing that our children can have a Bible-based, Christ-honoring education through the A.C.E. curriculum within our Christian Academy. As we send our children to Granite City Baptist Academy, let it not be just for a good education; but as an "investment for eternity", as they learn more about Jesus Christ while learning the A, B, C's.