



# FRIENDSHIP

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Knowledge | Faith | Character*



"Faithful is He" from 1 Thess. 5:24 was the theme for our staff this year. As we finish our 44th year of ministry, we praise God for His continued faithfulness to His ministry at Friendship. I am constantly amazed how God allows me to be a channel for Him to work in my very flawed life for His good. As I finish my 8th year at FCS, I see His hand on what is being accomplished.

I thank Him for allowing us to have 327 students on campus this year. We watched 20 seniors walk across the stage and receive their diplomas on May 30th. This senior class reminded me of what God has been doing at FCS and how God has allowed the school to stay true to its commitment to serve all Christian families.

Two of our graduates were part of the FLC and received an Occupational Track diploma. These families had been seeking a Christian education that no other school in our area would provide. I praise the Lord for our Focus Learning Center that was started in 2008 and the difference it is making in the lives of our students.

Three of our graduates were part of our foreign exchange program. Two of them have headed back to Guatemala and will continue their education there. One Chinese young lady will stay in the U.S. to continue her education. Again, I praise the Lord for our International Student Exchange program that was started in 2011. Our prayer for these three young adults is that they have learned what Christ did for them and that they will take this knowledge and pass it on to others in their home countries.

Four of these graduates have been at FCS since kindergarten. As I look at reenrollment, I see that we continue to satisfy families that are sacrificing to partner with us for the long term. Our current families are truly the best advertisement to new families.

As we look at our graduating class, we are blessed to have students entering a wide variety of colleges

that will meet their educational needs. Some students will be attending Christian universities to continue to gain a great education as well as continue to grow in their Christian walk by taking more Bible classes and attending more chapels. Others will be attending secular universities that will meet their educational needs. Our prayer for them is that they find local churches to help them continue to grow in their Christian walk. We pray that all of our students will be able to unashamedly defend their faith as they become a witness to others.

These students have chosen career fields in both Christian ministry and the secular work force. We have some future Christian school teachers, doctors, policemen, military, computer science, nurses, graphic designers, etc... all prayerfully becoming valuable members of a local church to use their talents for God's kingdom. We are always excited to see where God will lead our graduates. Next year, we will have five staff members who are graduates of FCS!

Finally, we thank the Lord for several teachers who were honored during the graduation service for their faithful years of service at FCS. I believe we continue to put together a tremendous, highly qualified staff to serve the Lord at FCS. The most important part of any school is its staff, the true living curriculum.

So as we look back, we have a lot to be thankful for. I believe you will enjoy reading these end of year articles. But I also continue to look forward to next year --- our 45th!!!!!!!!!!!! I do not want to rest on our past accolades. We need to continue to move forward to provide the best Christian education that we can. I believe you will be excited as we kick off several new academic experiences for next year.

May your family understand and know that God is faithful in what He has called us to do.

Stay faithful and finish strong,

Ric Nelson,  
Head of School

## Stanford 10 Achievement Test Scores 2014

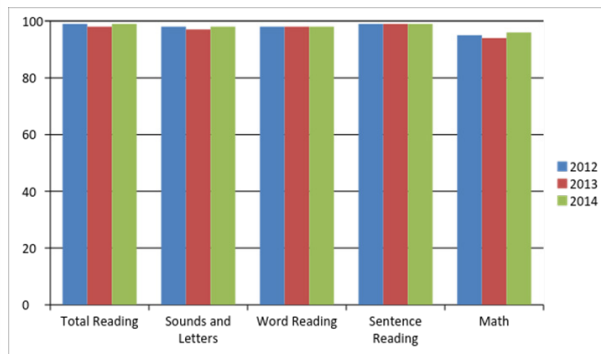
Friendship Christian School seeks to meet the academic needs of students with all levels of cognitive ability. One way we can measure student academic growth (both individually and collectively) is through standardized testing. Each year our students in Kindergarten through Eighth grades take the Stanford 10 achievement tests. As part of our on-going efforts to improve academics, we track these scores. We use this information as a vital part of the decision-making process to meet the class and curricular needs of our students. The percentile rankings for each grade for major sections are noted below:

### Elementary

#### Kindergarten

Kindergarten students scored exceptionally well on the Stanford 10. The class as a whole reached a grade equivalent of 2.0 with a range in subtests from 1.4 to 2.3. The chart below demonstrates the Kindergarten national percentile ranking.

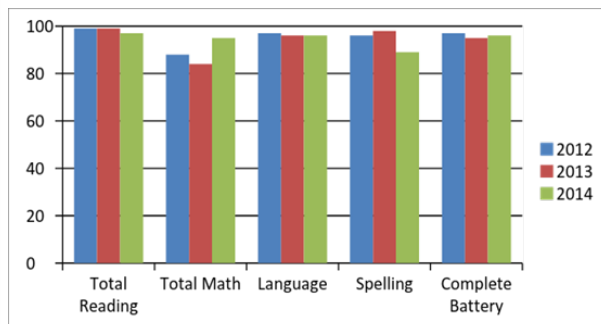
**FCS Kindergarten Achievement Test Scores**



#### First Grade

The first grade class scored well above the national averages and earned a median grade equivalency of 2.9 on the Complete Battery (scores on subtests range from 2.1-2.9). Percentile Rankings are charted below.

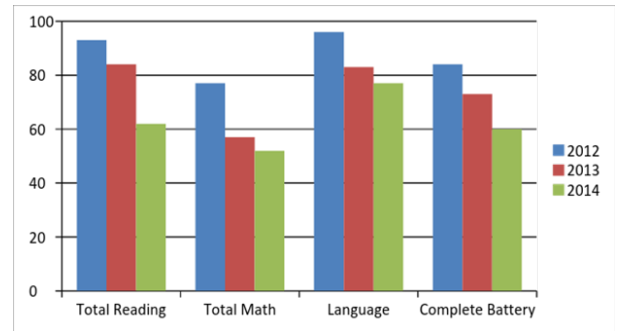
**FCS First Grade Achievement Test Scores**



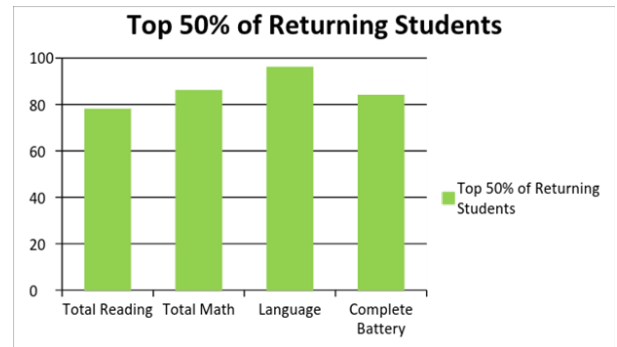
## Second Grade

It is always best to track individual students across a continuum (such as found in the Scaled Scores on the Stanford 10). Each year we have some degree of variation among our student body (students moving away and others coming in). We also have some years where certain classes have unusual events (such as family, illness, etc). This year's second grade had all of these. The following scores indicate the entire testing group.

**FCS Second Grade Achievement Test Scores**



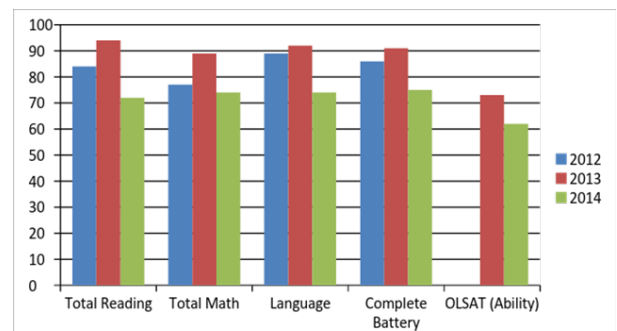
Below you will find averages for the top 50% of the returning second grade students:



## Third Grade

Students in third grade take the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) for the first time. These scores are reflected on the student's individual report that is mailed home at the end of the school year. The OLSAT is an indicator of a student's natural school ability and is used in comparison with achievement. The scores below indicate that students' academic achievement exceeds their natural ability.

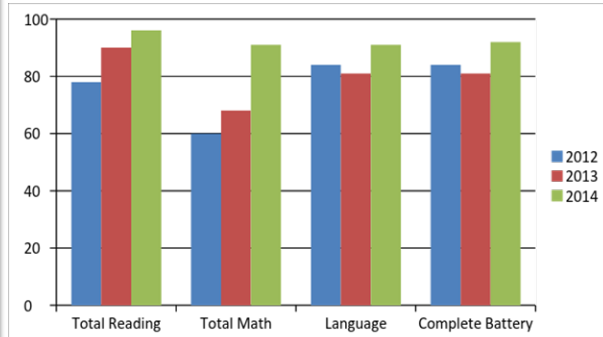
**FCS Third Grade Achievement and Ability Test Scores**



## Fourth Grade

Students in this year's fourth grade class continued the progress gained in previous years and earned a combined grade equivalent that is two grades above the norm.

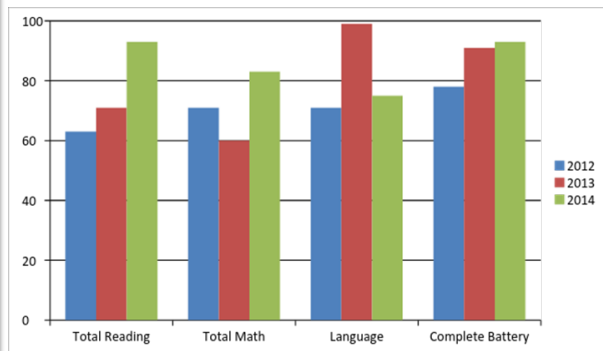
### FCS Fourth Grade Achievement Test Scores



## Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students also take the Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT). The results from the OLSAT give us an indication how well a student should be able to do in school. We compare this ability with the student's actual achievement as we evaluate our curriculum and instruction. This year's fifth grade class has done a remarkable job and has demonstrated significant academic growth in the past few years. The Complete Battery indicated the class average to be over two years higher in grade equivalence (7.8/ end of 7th grade year). We are looking forward to the continued progress as this class enters middle school.

### FCS Fifth Grade Achievement Test Scores



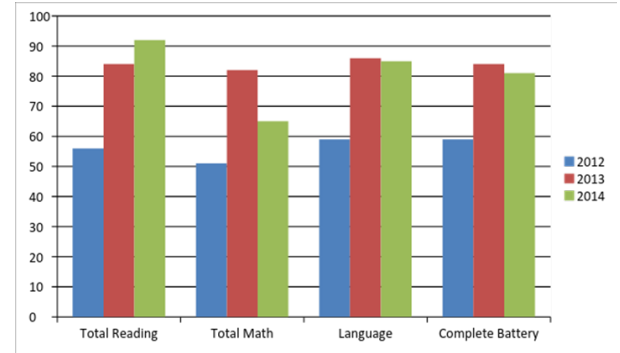
## Middle School

### Sixth Grade

Sixth grade is a big transition year from elementary school to middle school. Students learn how to adapt to the teaching styles of multiple teachers. As always, these scores reflect the difference in the various sixth grade classes regarding their strengths and weaknesses.

Below are the percentile rankings for 6th grade:

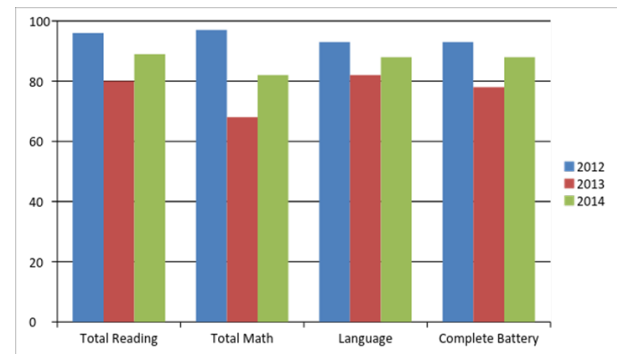
### Sixth Grade Achievement Test Scores



## Seventh Grade

This year we implemented enrichment classes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades which covered study skills such as note taking, outlining, test taking, and reading in context. Students applied these skills to their daily assignments. This year the Mean Grade Equivalent for the current seventh grade class is 10.3 (10<sup>th</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> month). We are very pleased with the progress of our seventh grade students.

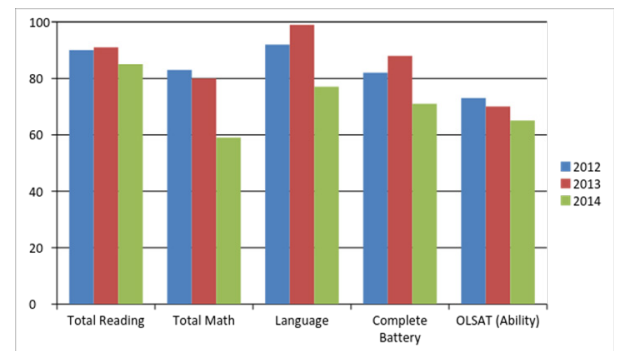
### Seventh Grade Achievement Test Scores



## Eighth grade

One marker in evaluating achievement test scores is to compare the OLSAT for each year with the students' overall ability in each of the subtests. When the OLSAT is lower than the students' achievement, this indicates that students are achieving at high rates. This has been the case each year for the eighth grade classes.

### Eighth Grade Achievement Test Scores



## Interpreting the Stanford 10 Achievement Test 2014

The Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (Stanford 10), was administered this year to FCS students in Kindergarten and in Grades 1-8. The Otis-Lennon School Ability Test, Eighth Edition (OLSAT), the companion school ability measure for the Stanford 10, was administered in Grades 3, 5, and 8. It was also administered to new students in Grades 9 and 10. This interpretation guide outlines how to interpret a student report in a manner consistent with the purposes of these assessments.

The Stanford 10 is an untimed, standardized, norm-referenced test where the conditions (i.e. time limits, directions) remain the same for each child who takes the test. A norm-referenced test compares a student's results with the results from a national sample of students in the same grade level taking the test at the same time of year. Although the content of the Stanford 10 includes academic concepts and skills typically taught in the US, it does not necessarily match the FCS curricular standards for each grade level.

### Primary Purposes of the Stanford 10

- To test students' knowledge of facts, basic skills, and concepts common to the grade level
- To compare individual performance with performance of the norming group
- To report relative strengths and weaknesses of individuals
- To provide data for studying changes/progress in performance over time
- To evaluate students' ability to apply thinking skills

### Key Areas of Interest

- Percentile Rankings to identify where your student ranks nationally
- Total Reading, Math and Language scores
- Complete Battery (full-length versions of all subtests)
- Basic Battery (a subset of items from all Complete Battery subtests, except Listening)
- Otis-Lennon Total to identify where your student ranks in school ability Explanation of Reported Scores
- Norm-Referenced Scores
- Scaled Scores (SS)
- National Percentile Ranks (PR)
- National Stanines (S)
- Grade Equivalent (GE)
- Achievement/Ability Comparison Range (AAC)
- Number Correct

### Measurements

**Scaled Scores (SS)** describe a student's location on an achievement continuum, a continuously running scale that ranks the lowest scores on one end (to the

left) and the highest scores on the other end (to the right). These scores may be used to note your student's growth from year to year as measured by achievement testing. Rising SS scores show that growth has probably occurred, though the rate of growth will vary.

### National Percentile Ranks-Stanine (PR-S)

**National Percentile Ranks (PR)** range from a low of 1 to a high of 99, with 50 denoting the national average. A percentile rank tells the percent of students in the norming group who got the same raw score or a lower raw score on the test. A student earning a percentile rank of 65 performed as well as or better than 65% of the students in the norming group. Unlike percentages, percentiles should be viewed as approximate rather than specific values. A five to eight point variance from year to year is likely immaterial.

**National Stanines (S)** are hyphenated behind the Percentile Ranks and range from a low of 1 to a high of 9, with 5 denoting the national average. Stanines 1, 2, and 3 are below average; 4, 5, and 6 are average; and 7, 8, and 9 are above average.

**AACS Group Percentile Ranks** are also listed. These scores are a comparison within AACS (American Association of Christian Schools) of students taking the Stanford 10.

**Grade Equivalent (GE)** scores can be helpful in measuring academic growth from year to year. The number in front of the decimal represents the grade year, and the number after the decimal represents the grade month. For example, if a second grade student scored a GE of 4.7, it means that the student earned a score equivalent to what a typical student in the seventh month of fourth grade would make. It does not mean readiness for fourth grade material; however, it means only that the student has a thorough mastery of the material covered on the second grade test.

The **OLSAT 8** is a measure of school ability. The national grade percentile rank and stanine (PR-S) indicate how a student performed on the OLSAT8 compared to students in the norming group who were in the same grade.

**The Ability/Achievement Comparison (AAC)** range indicates the relationship between a student's score on the Stanford 10 and the scores of other students of similar school ability in the norming group as measured by the OLSAT 8. If a student's achievement score is in the top 23% when compared to students of similar ability, the AAC is HIGH. If the achievement score is in the middle 54% when compared to students of similar ability, the AAC is MIDDLE. If the achievement score is in the bottom 23% when compared to students of similar ability, the AAC is LOW.

**Number Correct** indicates how many times a student answered correctly in relation to the number of questions.



## Fall Sports Review

The Falcons were very active this year. Varsity soccer made a strong run into the post season and varsity volleyball continues to win more games each year. Next year both teams will be in good position for a run at the state tournament. Cross country boys continue to improve, and we look forward to next year as they improve. The biggest surprise was the surge of strength from the varsity girls cross country team. They kept getting better and better as the season progressed and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state at the final meet.

**Middle School Soccer** 8-7-4

**Varsity Soccer** 14-5-1

1<sup>st</sup> Team All State – Andrew Peterson

1<sup>st</sup> Team All Region – Tyler Nelson

2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Region – Morgan Moss, Rolan Coc Choc

**Middle School Volleyball** 8-4

**JV Volleyball** 14-1

**Varsity Volleyball** 7-10

2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Region – Ally Murr, Hannah Braswell

**Varsity Cross Country - 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state**

## Winter Sports Review

For the winter sports, varsity boys basketball showed a lot of potential. At the BJU Invitational Tournament, the boys showed their potential by nearly beating the tournament winners. The varsity girls came in third at the tournament. Not satisfied, the girls continued to improve and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state. Never missing a beat, the cheerleaders were there every step of the way. Improved stunts have made them fun to watch.

**Middle School Boys Basketball** 5-11

**JV Boys Basketball** 5-10

**Varsity Boys Basketball** 3-19

**Middle School Girls Basketball** 5-10

**JV Girls Basketball** 6-7

**Varsity Girls Basketball** 15-8 **2<sup>nd</sup> in the state**

1<sup>st</sup> Team All State – Ally Murr

2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Region – Ashleigh Murr

## Spring Sports Review

The spring sports are continuing to improve. The baseball team, like the volleyball team, won more games than last year. With no seniors on the team, there is potential for a solid group returning and making a run into the post season. The girls soccer team had new leadership this year and showed improved skill as they made the post season and were one win away from the final four.

**Middle School Baseball** 1-7

**Varsity Baseball** 3-10

**Middle School Soccer** 4-6-1

**Varsity Soccer** 7-6

1<sup>st</sup> Team All State – Ally Murr

1<sup>st</sup> Team All Region – Hannah Boehme

2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Region – Haileigh Cabe, Charity Hemric

## All-Star Game

There is an unknown tradition at FCS. We are the annual site for the NCCSA 2A All-Star Game. Representatives from around the state come to Friendship to compete in the 3-point and Free Throw competitions. The day is highlighted by the girls and boys all-star games. With nearly 16 teams for the boys and girls represented, it is a busy day for FCS.

## Middle School Sports

Middle school athletics took a new direction. The philosophy was reviewed and changed so that we can focus on development. This will prove valuable as our varsity teams are built with the proper foundation making success more attainable.

## New Sport Added



The Falcons added another team this year. Golf was reintroduced as a Middle School team with 10 members. Some of the players were able to compete in 2 varsity events. Although they did not win the meets, they were competitive with some of the teams.



Friendship Christian School has been blessed with a rich heritage of excellence in Fine Arts. The goals for 2013-2014 were to enhance and grow that tradition, break new ground in some areas, and cast a renewed vision for growth. By God's grace these goals were met and great opportunities and memories were created for our students, staff, and parents.

## Curriculum and Structure

### ***New Fine Arts Coordinator, Art instructors, and Speech teacher***

Debi Brondyke took on the position of Fine Arts Coordinator over-seeing the entire arts program at FCS. She engaged additional parental support and worked to streamline communication and efficiency throughout the program with an emphasis on creativity and excellence in all phases.

Sherri Kissinger headed up the MS and HS art departments. LuAnne Payne assisted in elementary art.

Diane Braswell took on a new challenge as speech teacher, working to see the students develop professional and personal communication skills.

Other veteran members of the arts faculty are Kevin Elston with 30 years experience in band and choir, Val Elston teaching elementary music and piano, Barbara Walston in MS Band, and April Howze in speech and drama.

## Music

**Elementary-** Elementary music classes met weekly and learned music appreciation, theory, and singing. The select Jubilation chorus, open to 3rd-5th grade students by audition, was added as an important developmental piece of our graded choir system at FCS.

**MS and HS-** Choir and band were offered for MS and HS students with the option to take either or both. Band met three times weekly and choir twice weekly. The groups performed in concerts, competitions, and community settings.

## Art

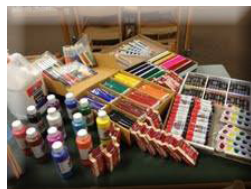
**Elementary-**each class met weekly

**MS and HS** art classes were offered twice a week. Students prepared projects for the class and for competition.



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important developmental piece of our graded choir system at FCS.



## Speech and Drama

The senior speech class met daily to develop personal and professional communication skills. They also produced skits for special events.

April Howze directed and produced the Senior High Play during the spring. Students added rehearsals and performances to their busy schedules, but benefitted greatly from the experience of an excellent production. The play is by open audition for 9th-12th grades.

## Events

The Fine Arts calendar is filled through the year with special events where we strive to put forth an excellent effort for FCS, ourselves, and, primarily, the testimony of our Lord. We can look back on the 2013-14 year with gratitude for many successes and many great memories!

### **All-State Band and Choir-**



Our MS and HS band students again had the opportunity to audition for seats in the North Carolina Christian School Association All-State Honor Band Festival, held annually in November on the campus of Wake Christian and Hilltop Christian Schools. Last year an All-State Honor Choir was added to the weekend's festivities and that opportunity was open for our students again this year. Friendship had 25 students attend the three-day event culminated by a stunning concert at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest. Students learned and grew through the experience, and we hope even more will participate next year.

### **Christmas Concert-**



The annual all-school Christmas Concert was a highlight again this year with energetic and polished performances given by all levels of school musical groups. The event was well attended, and the highlight was the grand finale with all school musical groups performing the final number together!

### **Public Performances-**



At Christmas our MS band and choir and our HS Choir went into the community for special performances that were received well. The MS groups ministered at two area homes for the elderly, while the HS choir performed at the State Capitol and the Governor's Mansion. We look to add to these opportunities significantly next year.



# Fine Arts 2014

**NCCSA MS and HS Competition-** The main focus of 2nd semester is preparation for the North Carolina Christian School Association State Fine Arts Festival in February and March. FCS again hosted the solo/ensemble portion of this festival in February, adding a second day of competition, as well. Our students were outstanding receiving many "superior" and "excellent" ratings. Further, several students and groups were state winners.



In March at the group competitions at Raleigh Christian FCS students further distinguished themselves with high ratings and rankings.

**AACS National Competition-** Based on their achievement as state winners, 3 students went on to compete at AACS Nationals at Bob Jones University in April.

**NCBA Honor Bands-** Daniel Elston had two achievements deserving special recognition. He auditioned for North Carolina Bandmasters Central District Honors Band. This audition pitted him against students from across the greater Raleigh area, public and private schools alike. Daniel was placed 3rd chair in the top Middle School Band and attended the two-day district festival several weeks later where a special guest conductor led the students through rehearsals and a marvelous concert. Because Daniel placed so high in the district auditions, he qualified to audition for the NCBA All-State Band. Amazingly, he chaired even higher in the All-State Band (2nd chair) and played in their Festival in April at UNC-Chapel Hill. Congratulations, Daniel, on standing out as one of the best middle school musicians in the entire state of North Carolina!

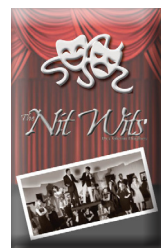


**Concert on the Green-** A new event was added this year, and based on its excellent reception was immediately added to the 2014-15 calendar, as well. Our Jubilation Chorus and all MS and HS musical groups presented a "Concert on the Green"... but in the air-conditioned comfort of our gymnasium. The atmosphere was casual like a picnic. Food was provided by Parents of Friendship and the Barbecue Lodge. The students gave wonderful, energetic performances of light concert music. A wonderful, relaxing evening was had by all! Don't miss this special event next year!



**NCCSA Elementary Competition-** In April art students, Bible drillers, poetry reciters, poets, vocal and instrumental soloists, Jubilation Chorus, and 5th and 6th grade band students competed in the Eastern District NCCSA Elementary Fine Arts Festival hosted by Faith Christian School in Goldsboro. Our students received many "superior" and "excellent" ratings. Several students and groups were also winners in their categories.

**School Play-** The school play, "The Nit Wits," under the direction of April Howze was a smashing success as packed houses roared with laughter in both performances. This built on last year's successful production of the moving World War II story, "The Diary of Anne Frank." Students and audience alike await with anticipation what lies in store for 2014-15!



## Spiritual Development:



Our year began with a high school retreat to The Anchorage in Lake Waccamaw where students and staff shared a time of spiritual recharging and fellowship. Students were challenged to examine their relationship with God and to seek God's will for their lives this year. Throughout the year, we were blessed to have a variety of Christian colleges and Godly men share truth from God's Word in our chapels. Each teacher was also assigned a small group of students that met occasionally throughout the year. These groups of five or six provided a more personal, individualized setting in which they discovered and discussed Biblical principles and guidelines to help when faced with real life situations and difficult choices. Our high school Bible classes also had the opportunity to develop leadership by preparing and leading Bible lessons in some of our elementary classes. God blessed as many of our students grew spiritually and surrendered control of their lives to His leading.

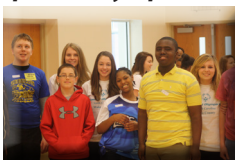
## Student Representatives:



Students chosen from each of our 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade classes based on their reputations and leadership abilities served to represent their classes and FCS in several ways this year. During orientation, they welcomed families back to school and took time to greet students new to FCS. Over the first few weeks of school, our student reps worked to help ease the transition of our new students into their new school. Student reps also had the opportunity to run our Spirit Week festivities, assisted the Salvation Army with setting up their annual Christmas store, greeted prospective families visiting the school during open houses, passed out donuts to parents during morning carline, volunteered at the Durham Rescue Mission golf tournament, and provided manpower for FCS to host the NCCSA Fine Arts Music Competitions. Through all of this, they learned to follow Christ's example of being a servant leader and putting the needs of others before your own.

## Student Outreach:

### Special Olympics -



Members of the Varsity Basketball teams and Cheerleading squad spent a day assisting with the Special Olympics basketball program.

**Military Care Packages** - The freshman class packaged and sent over 25 care packages, filled with items

donated by our student body, to members of the military who are associated with FCS.

**Durham Rescue Mission** - Our student body "Filled the Nest" with much needed items to stock the pantry at the Durham Rescue Mission. The National Honor Society members spent Good Friday at the mission preparing and passing out Easter baskets at the mission's annual Easter Dinner.



## Field Trips:

Students in most grades had the opportunity to further their educational experience through both on-site and off-site field trips.

### Off-site Field Trips:

**Preschool** - Marbles Kids Museum

**Kindergarten** - Hillridge Farms and Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** - Vollmer Farm and Museum of Life and Science, Durham

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** - Blue Jay Point and Marbles Kids Museum - Bodyworks Mastermind

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - Yates Mill Pond and Mordecai House

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Downtown Raleigh (Capitol Building, Legislative Building, NC Museum of History, NC Museum of Natural Sciences) and Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Museum of Life and Science, Durham and Poe Health Center

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade** - North Carolina Zoo

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Fort Fisher and NC Aquarium

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Williamsburg, VA

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade World History class** - Airborne and Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors English** - Plays by Poe

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Anatomy** - Crabtree Chiropractic Center

### On-site field trips:

**Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade** - Frogs, Snakes, and Lizards

**1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade** - Writing Workshop

