

CHALKMARKS

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DCS ELEMENTARY FAMILY CHAPEL SELECTED AS EXEMPLARY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Damascus Christian School's elementary Family Chapel format has been selected by the Association for Christian Schools International (ACSI) as one of twenty-two Christian schools world-wide to be recognized as an "Exemplary School Program". The purpose of this designation is to identify Christian schools that have, according to ACSI President Ken Smitherman, "...the kinds of programs that are achieving ends above and beyond what each school might have accomplished had it not stepped out and risked such innovation."

The objectives of our Family Chapel are four-fold: 1) to build leadership skills, 2) to grow more responsible, 3) to mature in Christ, and 4) to build lasting relationships with younger students. How are these goals accomplished? One elementary chapel a month is designated as Family Chapel. Instead of a speaker or class presentation, kindergarten through sixth grade students gather as "families" - 1 or 2 sixth grade student leaders, the same number of fifth grade co-leaders (leaders-in-training), and a balanced mix of kindergarten through fourth grade students. Each family has a total of ten to twelve participants who stay together for the entire school year. Our sixth graders build leadership skills as they develop the lesson plan for the chapel. Each family lesson centers around the character quality of the month. On the Friday before the chapel, the sixth graders devise a plan under the guidance of their classroom teachers. This plan includes ten minutes for teaching a Bible lesson, ten minutes for working on verse memorization, and ten minutes for taking prayer requests and praying within the "families". At the end of the school year, the baton passes from the sixth grade students to the fifth grade co-leaders.

How are the objectives realized? The fifth and sixth graders build their leadership skills as they develop their lesson plans and execute them at chapel. These same students grow more responsible as they make sure they have developed a good lesson plan and as they see it carried out. The upper elementary students grow in maturity in Christ because they must dig deeper in Scripture to present a well-thought out lesson. Finally, they develop opportunities to form a growing relationship with our younger students.

Family Chapel takes place the first Wednesday of each month. Students sit in the "families" rather than their regular class. The classroom teachers give minimal oversight. At the end of family time, the younger students return to their classrooms with a family leader as their escort.

Our elementary students have thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from this unique approach to chapel. Not only does it help them develop and mature, but it also gives them opportunity to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Elementary chapels take place each Wednesday, 8:35 AM, in the auditorium. Feel free to join the family!

SPRING PRODUCTION OPENS THIS WEEK

Thursday evening,

April 27th, 7 PM, is the opening night for this year's spring drama production, *How the West was Dun*. Excitement is building as we come down to the final few rehearsals. As reported earlier, this presentation is a Western

melodrama complete with audience participation - you will be encouraged to hiss and boo the villain and cheer the hero. According to director Lisa Closser, "The first time we did a melodrama, we were dubious about how well it would be received. Since that time, I am continually asked to present another. Thus, *How The West Was Dun!*"

If you have not purchased your tickets, you need to do that immediately. There are still good seats left for Saturday afternoon's dessert theatre (adults - \$10, students and 60+ = \$7). Tickets may be purchased before or after school in the foyer; other times at the school office. Hee haw!!



PART-TIME BOOKKEEPING POSITION OPEN

DCC/DCS is looking for a part-time bookkeeper to serve primarily the school's bookkeeping needs. This is a minimum of twenty-hours a week position. Qualifications include a thorough knowledge of established bookkeeping/accounting procedures (GAAP) in order to prepare, examine, verify and maintain accounts in a system covering a wide variety of transactions. In addition, a thorough knowledge of bookkeeping terminology and account codes related to processing transactions in an automated system, good math background and proficiency in use of calculators, including 10 Key by touch, exercise in discretion in determining work methods from among established bookkeeping and accounting procedures, general administrative

and office manuals and standard DCC/DCS operating procedures; in recognizing possible alternative actions to take when needed, in selecting or devising procedural steps necessary in solving administrative processes, and recognizing when it is necessary to refer problems to the Business Administrator.

Work experience requirements include five or more years full-charge bookkeeping including payroll, invoicing, A/R, A/P, basic G/L and financial statement preparation; prefer non-profit accounting experience. In addition, experience in Windows-based computer financial/accounting software; prefer Quickbooks experience and intermediate level Excel user. Of course, the applicant must be able to

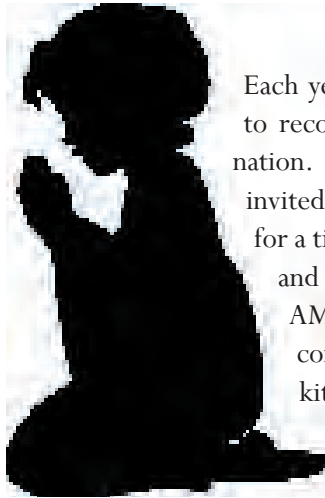
pass a background check to allow working around children.

If you have the skills necessary and an interest in this ministry or would like further information, please contact either Jerry Johnson, DCC Business Administrator or Tim Oakley at the school office. An application may be picked up in the DCC office. Time is of the essence as our current bookkeeper, Darlene Abbott, will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Visit our website at
www.damascuschristianschool.org
or email us at
DCS@damascuscc.org

National Day of Prayer

May 4th



Each year, the first Thursday of May is set aside to recognize the importance of prayer for our nation. DCS students, faculty, and parents are invited and encouraged to "gather around the bell" for a time of prayer for our nation, state, county and communities. We will begin praying at 7 AM, May 4th. After a season of prayer, a continental breakfast will be served in the kitchen - \$1 for a drink and donut/bagel. Join us!

Tips For A Strong Finish

As the warm weather settles in and the end of the school year approaches, there is a tendency for students to kick back and coast through the last month of school. Here is a list of common-sense ideas to help DCS students achieve a strong finish. 1) Keep focused and come to each class prepared (homework completed, "tools" at hand – pencils, paper, books, etc). 2) Write down each daily assignment; check it off when it is completed. 3) Actively listen and participate in class. 4) Take good notes. 5) Review each day's lesson before going to bed. 6) Do not put off end-of-the-term projects. Work on them each day.

Hang in there and seek to finish strong!!

DCS Basketball Camp - Grades 3rd thru 9th - June 19-22, 2006 -
Watch for more details to come.

Junior High Tracksters Finish Well At Metro Christian Meet

On April 13th, our junior high track team competed with eight other Portland-Metro schools with the girls finishing fourth and the boys placing third. Congratulations are in order for Kristan H. who took first in the shot put, high jump, and 100M hurdles. Katie S. took third in the javelin, while our 400M relay (Olivia B., Kristan H., Katie M., and Katie S.) placed sixth. Katie M. also took third in the 1500M run and sixth in the 400M dash. Olivia B. crossed the finish line at 16th place in the 100M dash.

On the boys side, Matt Y. took first in the high jump, with Peter B. second and Steven R. coming in third! In the long jump, Josh S. to seventh and Peter B. came in ninth. Matt Y. placed third in the turbo javelin, while Luke D. came in thirteenth. The 400M relay saw DCS come across the line first with Peter B., Steve R., Josh S. and Matt Y. Steven R. came in second in the 100M dash with Peter B. right behind in fifth place. Luke D. finished nineteenth. In the 400M dash, Josh S. crossed the finish line one second behind the winner. In the 1200 run, Steven R. was second with Josh S. fifth. Trevor U. finished twelfth in the discus and eighth in the shot put.

Congratulations!

