

CHALKMARKS

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What is ACSI?

If you have been around Damascus Christian School for any length of time, you will hear about ACSI. You probably have a vague idea that ACSI – Association of Christian Schools International – has something to do with Christian schooling, but what? In their words, “The Association of Christian School International (ACSI) strives to enable and equip Christian educators and schools worldwide to effectively educate children and young people with the mind of Christ. Thus, students will be prepared for life because Christ, the creator and sustainer of the universe, possesses ‘all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge’ (Col. 2:3). The life and mind of Christ is nurtured in the lives of students through redemptive relationships with faculty who recognize that reconciling the heart and mind to God is the foundation of their work.

“In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Col.2:3

To this end, ACSI seeks to equip schools for greater effectiveness, year after year. The many programs and services we offer are intended to enrich the teaching of Truth – God’s Word revealed through Scripture as well as through creation. We seek to increase the vision for students’ intellectual development through Christian faculty who model a rigorous Christian mind in their teaching and leading. We believe that schools can increasingly achieve their vibrant mission as their operational practices grow in excellence.”

What are some of the programs and services ACSI offers member schools? Under the heading of *Academic Services* you will find a myriad of programs – Teacher and Administrator Certification, Academic and Leadership Services, Administrator Intern Program, Standardized Testing, Distinguished Christian High School Student recognition, and the Exemplary School Program (of which DCS was selected for our High School Mentoring program). ACSI also provides a demanding accreditation and school improvement program. They coordinate training programs for administrators, boards, teachers and student leaders. They sponsor student activities including speech meets, Young Authors, science fairs, spelling bees, music events, art festivals, creative writing events, Math Olympics, and yearbook evaluation. They host the International Institute for Christian School Educators and a professional society for Christian school administrators. ACSI is international in scope, providing resources and training for schools and staff around the world. They have a strong mission’s emphasis and a commitment to urban schools.

ACSI President Ken Smitherman said it well when he stated, “I would claim that Christian schooling is not about running or hiding. Rather, it is about embracing and pursuing the mind of Christ. It is about pursuing the real understanding of what it means to be salt and light, about transformation by the renewing of the mind. It is about the development of fruitful bearers of the image of Christ in an abundance of darkness where the light has been all but snuffed out.”

That statement encapsulates what the Association of Christian Schools International is about. As a charter member, Damascus Christian School appreciates the tremendous resources and training ACSI provides. We appreciate their cutting-edge, forward thinking approach to Christian schooling.

For more information about ACSI, go to www.ACSI.org. Please pray for Ken Smitherman and the ACSI leadership. Pray for our Northwest District Regional staff under the direction of Roger Norrie.

“...to effectively educate children and young people with the mind of Christ...”

DCHS Student In Top 5%

We have been notified that DCS senior Erin H. has earned recognition as a *Commended Student* in the 2006 National Merit® Scholarship Program. Commended Students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test used for program entry.

More than one million students took the 2004 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last October and entered the National Merit Program, a nationwide competition for recognition and awards conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation. In April, the 50,000 highest scorers were offered College Plans Reporting Service through their schools.

A spokesperson for the National Merit Program commented, "It is important to acknowledge the attainments of academically talented students and to credit schools for the key role they play in their development. We hope the recognition received by these able young men and women who are commended in this rigorous, nationwide competition will encourage them to take advantage of opportunities for higher education and to diligently pursue their professional goals."

Congratulations Erin!!

ACSI Teachers' Conference This Week

Each year, Damascus Christian School participates in the ACSI Teachers' Conference held at the Portland Convention Center. The theme of this year's conference is *Teaching To Transform: Embrace Truth*. This two-day event Thursday and Friday, October 6th and 7th, includes two general sessions and a two-track seminar schedule designed for either elementary or secondary teachers. The seminars topics and presentations are relevant to almost any academic need. This year, our Discovery Coordinator Rachel Velez will be presenting five seminars dealing with issues related to learning difficulties. Other topics include disciplines of reading, science, geography, math, technology, administration, writing, leadership, Biblical worldview, and others. In addition, teachers will be able to take two continuing education units (CEU) Bible courses in order to maintain their certification.

Numerous vendors are also on site to entice teachers to part with their money in order to enhance their classroom environment.

At the Thursday General Session, Damascus Christian will be publically recognized and receive our official ACSI Accreditation plaque!

Please pray that this would be an inspiring, productive conference and that the DCS staff would come back refreshed and energized to continue to teach with vitality and conviction.

DCS Elementary Talent Show Shaping Up

Excitement is running high for our very first DCS Elementary Talent Show, Thursday, October 20th, 7 PM. Students have been rehearsing and refining their acts for this electrifying event. Be sure to mark your calendars and save that night as our elementary students strut their stuff!

Grandparents' Day Friday, October 21st

This year's Grandparents' Day is scheduled for Friday, October 21st, 10:30 until noon. This is our opportunity to honor and thank our Grandparents for the wonderful job they do being Grandma and Gramps! We appreciate the Godly heritage many of our grandparents have provided for their grandchildren. This is one way we can say thanks! The day will begin with some presentations in the auditorium, concluding with Open House in the classrooms. School for all students will dismiss at noon.



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