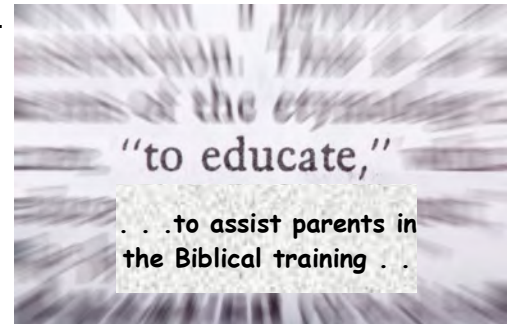




Welcome to our 34th school year! This is our first full week of school with all classes present and accounted for. At our Monday *Welcome Back!* assembly, DCS senior and Student Body President **Jon Nielsen** welcomed the students and opened our time in prayer. The teachers and staff were introduced to the students to resounding cheers and applause. **Mr. Oakley** shared with the students our hearts' desire found in I Thessalonians 2:7 & 8, "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel but also our own lives, because you had become very

dear to us." Not only do we want to assist our parents in the Biblical training of your children, but also the academic, social, emotional, and physical aspects of life, to the end that this generation of students will become faithful followers of Jesus Christ for God's glory and the building of His Kingdom.

What a privilege it is to partner with parents in the task of nurturing and shepherding young people. We are looking forward to a positive and productive school year. Welcome!



Our goal for your children.....

Back-To-School Parents' Night This Friday

In order to make sure we start each school year on the same page, we arrange our Back-To-School Parent Night early in the school year. **This Friday, 7 PM**, we will be meeting in the auditorium for a parents-only time. We are presenting a new, exciting format this year, one you will not want to miss. We will be covering some of the same

information, but in a far different way! We ask that at least one parent from each family be present for this vitally important gathering. Friday, 7 PM, auditorium.

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It doesn't affect me! Really?

"Television is...teaching whether you want it to or not."

How often have you heard this comment, "I can listen/watch this stuff. I know the words/pictures aren't very good, but it doesn't bother me."? Jim Henson, late originator of *The Muppets*, once remarked, "Television is... teaching whether you want it to or not."

What do you do about the obvious increase in prime-time, anti-family fare served up by the media? One way is to set aside time on Sunday, September 28th, to attend a special presentation by Al Menconi, media and culture expert, who will be addressing the issues of the media's influence on us. Al will be speaking at both morning services (8:30 and 11 AM) at Damascus Community Church. At 4:30 PM, Al will be sharing with parents only, *Keeping Kids Safe in the Digital/*

Internet Age. We will break for dinner then reconvene at 6:30 for his last presentation for parents and teens, *Today's Entertainment: Does It Affect You?*.

Al Menconi has been in full-time ministry for more than 25 years, speaking to more than 50,000 people every year. His fast-moving, humorous seminar will give parents information and resources to help them understand the influence of today's entertainment media and to teach their children how to think biblically. We are in a spiritual war and the vast majority of ammunition aimed at our families comes from today's entertainment media. Today's digital/Internet age is overwhelming society and most parents are afraid of how it may have a negative influence on their family. This concern often leads

to over reaction or the opposite – simply ignoring it. It is impossible to hide from this digital influence such as chatrooms, *MySpace*, *You Tube*, video games, iPods, etc., but it is possible to teach character to our children.

Al's seminar is not a time of simply telling parents and teens WHAT to think; but it will be a time of challenge to teach parents HOW to think and to then teach their children HOW to think within biblical guidelines. These free presentations are our effort to assist parents in the Biblical training of their children. We are committed to giving parents the tools necessary to aid them and to help young people become faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Al Menconi, Sunday, September 28th, 8:30 or 11 AM, 4:30 and 6:30 PM. Invite your friends!

Allergic reaction information

It seems each year more and more students are affected by some form of allergic reactions, either to food or insect stings. For some, this is a critical and possible life-threatening issue. Because

of that, it is vitally important that parents let the office and their child's teacher(s) know of this condition. In these situations, time is of the essence. If we know ahead of time of possible allergic

reactions, it would help us know what we need to do. Thanks!



Please let us know

A safe school environment



One of the positive aspects of DCS over the years has been to create and maintain a safe school environment for students, free from intimidation and bullying. Unfortunately, we recently found out that both of the above issues had been occurring. When the information came to light, steps

were taken to investigate the allegations and deal with them. Changes have been made which we believe will once more establish DCS as a safe and secure place for students to be. Be sure to be having ongoing conversations with your children to keep current with "extra-curricular" happenings

that may be going on at school or school-related events. Be sure to notify the school office when you become aware of such activities.