

Northland  
Christian School  
**YEAR** 2010  
IN **REVIEW**



# *2010 at Northland Christian School was indeed a year of moving forward.*

The accomplishments in academics, facilities, athletics, fine arts and debate are something of which we can all be proud.

**Our primary challenge was to raise the bar academically.** This has involved improvements in curriculum, course offerings, schedule, facilities, and faculty. We know that much of our success depends on what happens in the classroom.



**Our goal is to develop higher-order thinking skills** in all of our students. To accomplish this goal we have made enhancements in many areas. At the elementary school an exciting new curriculum was selected for the four-year-old preschool program. The fourth grade students are benefiting from a new social studies curriculum and we have added a new elementary science module. In addition, we have returned to daily physical education, added Spanish and Art classes, and extended the school day by twenty minutes.

## **NCS Awarded Robotics Grant**

Northland Christian School robotics students and faculty members are participating in the Texas Workforce Commission High School Competitive Robotics Education Team Development Program. A grant in the amount of \$322,661 was awarded to 91 Texas school systems. The purpose of the program is to form new robotics teams across Texas and to foster an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related careers.

Because of the enthusiasm generated by this program, an NCS parent recently donated \$15,000 for the secondary campus robotics program. This money will be used to further enhance our robotics programs by providing funds to purchase specialized furniture and robotics equipment and to pay entry fees for competitions.

In January, robotics will be introduced at the elementary school as part of their Talents, Gifts, Investigations Friday clubs (TGIF). These clubs provide students opportunities to explore their gifts and talents in weekly sessions.



## Endowed Chairs in Math and Science Bring Value to Northland Christian

This past spring NCS was blessed by the generosity of a benefactor which allowed the establishment of endowed chairs in our Math and Science Departments. As a result, we were able to hire new faculty members Cecil Davis and Cathie Clapper.



Mr. Davis comes to us from Spring ISD with twenty-five years of teaching experience, specializing in Geometry and Calculus. In addition, he has received

the following honors: Westfield High School Teacher of the Year, Spring ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year, and a nomination for the Texas Excellence Award for Outstanding High School Teachers. He was also recognized as a Spring ISD Education Foundation Distinguished Educator for six years.

The benefit of Mr. Davis' expertise is already evident. Several of our high school students' SAT/ACT math scores have improved dramatically in a short period of time due to his excellent teaching methods. These higher test scores will give our students a competitive edge in the college application and scholarship award process. We are confident that improvements such as these will continue to be seen as Mr. Davis impacts each of our students.



Mrs. Clapper comes to us from Klein ISD with twenty-nine years of teaching experience, specializing in Chemistry.

Prior to teaching in Klein she spent nineteen years at Second Baptist School where she was Chairman of the Science Department.

Mrs. Clapper not only brings her science expertise to the NCS classroom, she also brings an incredible love for her students and for teaching. As an example, during the first few weeks of school she learned that one of her student's goals is to attend a particular university and be accepted into their nursing program. Mrs. Clapper contacted the program chair at the university to be certain the required science knowledge would be covered in her classroom. Her desire for all of our students is that they be well prepared for the future.



On the secondary campus, significant changes have been completed. **Our focus has been on attracting, retaining and developing** the best educators possible.

This year we brought in some outstanding new faculty members including Mathematics instructors Cecil Davis and Gretchen Wietstruck (from Spring ISD), Catherine Clapper, Chemistry teacher (from Klein High School) and Darryl Phipps, Social Studies and Athletics (from Fort Bend Marshall High School). One-third of our full-time faculty have Masters degrees and two of our Bible teachers have seminary degrees.



Cherilyn Ziemer (pictured at left) was named Dean of Academics and Michael Crocker joined us from Tomball High

School to become Dean of Students. **The role of Dean of Academics has been expanded** to include curriculum alignment between grade levels, teacher evaluations and professional development, project-based learning, and technology integration in the classroom.

We believe that our **Advanced Placement (AP)** program in Art, Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, 11th and 12th grade English, and Spanish is second to none.

This year we made a **fundamental revision in the daily class schedule**, moving from block to a modified everyday plan that provides one hour per week of faculty development and allows students to move at a faster, more consistent pace. We also added 50 minutes of instruction time each day.

**Improving accountability at all levels** is one of our goals this school year. Our theme comes from Colossians 3:23, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”*

**Adequately preparing our students for college is critical to our success.** Final exam exemptions for seniors



are now limited to one subject per semester. The purchase of Naviance®, a comprehensive

college-planning web-based program, assists our college counseling staff in providing resources for parents and students. Naviance® enables them to learn about college admission standards and costs, identify scholarships, and prepare for SAT/ACT tests. Academic advisement for eighth grade students and their parents was implemented because it is essential that planning for college begins at an early age.



## **NCS Using New College Counseling Tools**

Naviance Succeed® is a web-based service designed especially for students and parents. This comprehensive website is used by students and parents to help in making decisions about colleges, careers, and much more.

Ann Smith, Academic Advisor and DeAnna Graves, Academic Counselor for NCS (pictured above), began using this exciting tool in October. The Naviance system enables students to research colleges and careers, prepare for the SAT and ACT exams, as well as learn more about themselves through the Learning Style Inventory, Career Interest Profiler, and Personality Assessment.

Individual conferences were held with each 8th grade student and his/her parents. “Begin with the End in Mind” was the theme of the conference with an emphasis on various learning styles, calculation of GPA (grade point average), extra-curricular activities, achievement testing, and resume building. Plans are underway for individual conferences with all 9th - 11th graders.



*Ann Smith, NCS Academic Advisor, and NCS 8th grader Bethany Dennison review college planning information.*

## Science Building Renovations



*The Science Building was completely rebuilt with state-of-the-art laboratories for all of the sciences. Above, student Stephanie Pham relaxes in the beautiful science building atrium which features murals created from student art and photography.*

## Army Strong Award

The Northland Christian Cougars football team was chosen by the U.S. Army in conjunction with Dave Campbell's Texas Football Magazine as the "Army Strong Team of the Week".

Each week, TexasFootball.com and the U.S. Army join together to select one team from every classification in high school



football that demonstrated the qualities exhibited within the Army - those include leadership, commitment to excellence, and a desire to make a difference as a member of a team.

The senior class of 2010 received **\$2.6 million in scholarship offers**. This year we have two National Merit Commended Scholars, Sarah Holley and Leslie Lewis.



**Creating the right learning environment** is so important for our teachers and students. Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to remodel our five "pod" buildings including all of the classrooms. The Science Building was completely rebuilt with state-of-the-art laboratories for all of the sciences.

We are proud of our new football staff, under the direction of David Nelson and the results they achieved on the field. Even more important is the



way our **coaches exemplify Christ-like role models** to our student athletes and work to instill integrity and strength of character in them.



## Our debate program is among the best in the nation

for both public and private schools. During the first semester fourteen debate team members qualified for the Texas Forensic Association State Tournament. Also, four team members have qualified for the prestigious Tournament of Champions National



Tournament hosted in May by the University of Kentucky.

## Our fine arts program

produced an incredible rendition of the musical *Godspell* this fall. Our outstanding choir, under the

direction of Laura Lane, has been performing at many local venues and has produced a new Christmas CD.

At NCS, **technology is being leveraged** to enhance the learning skills of our students. The wireless networks on both campuses have been rebuilt to allow for increased use of student and teacher laptops. Sixth and seventh grades were added to our one-



to-one MacBook program. MacBook laptops were also introduced at the elementary campus in third,

fourth and fifth grades to prepare them for middle school classes. In Building One, the primary server was replaced allowing us to provide a more efficient network.

## NCS Debate has a history of excellence

Members of the Northland Christian Debate Team competed recently in Chicago at the 31st edition of The Glenbrooks Debate and Speech Tournament. The Glenbrooks is the largest high school debate tournament hosted by a high school in the nation. This year over 226 schools competed at The Glenbrooks tournament.

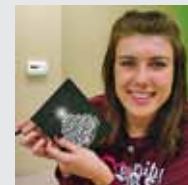


**Josh Roberts** (pictured above), a senior at NCS, brought home a huge win for the NCS Debate Team when he took First Place in the Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate & Second Speaker Award for Varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate.

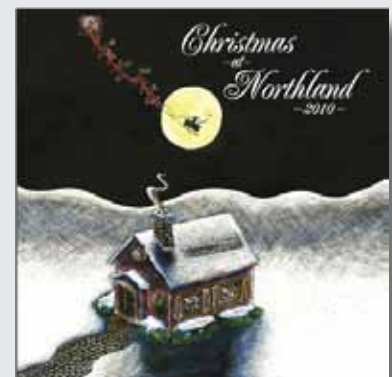
The NCS Debate Program, now in its seventh year, prepares students for competition in interscholastic debate and speech tournaments against both public and private schools in Texas and nationally.

## NCS Choirs Record a Christmas CD

For the first time, NCS choirs have recorded a CD of Christmas music. This compilation features the Elementary Honor Choir, Middle School and High School Choirs, and Select 16. This project would not have been possible without the time and talents of Ellen Marsh (NCS senior pictured at left), CD illustrations;



Jeff Johnson (HS Art teacher), CD disc design; and Courtney Lemm & GenTech students (Technology Office) CD duplication.



## 1st-3rd Grade Reading Fluency Results

**1st grade** -- The average NCS first grader is reading at 62 words per minute. This is the national average for 2nd grade in the winter.



**2nd grade** -- The average NCS 2nd grader is reading at 94 words per minute. The national average is 40-60 words per minute in the fall. Thirteen NCS 2nd graders are reading over 100 words per minute!

**3rd grade** -- The average NCS 3rd grader is reading at 102 words per minute, which greatly exceeds the national average for the fall. Seventeen NCS students are reading over 100 words per minute!



## Choir Goodwill Tours

Each year NCS choirs bless our community with sounds of the season by singing in many area hospitals, nursing homes, and businesses. Elementary, Middle School and High School Choirs, and Select 16 tour sites for this year include:

- Atria Senior Living on Cypresswood
- Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Champions  
*(Elementary Honor Choir pictured above)*
- Heartland Senior Living at Willowbrook
- Edenbrook Retirement Center
- Methodist Hospital at Willowbrook
- Old Town Spring
- St. Luke's Hospital in the Woodlands
- The Village Assisted Living at Gleannloch Farms
- MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Kelsey-Seybold Spring Clinic
- Old Town Spring
- St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
- Victor's Deli and Restaurant
- Gringos Mexican Restaurant
- The Container Store at Champions
- Dickens on the Strand - Galveston
- Lanier Law Firm Christmas Party

We have worked hard to beautify our secondary campus and to make **security on both campuses a priority**. Adding new netting, security fencing, parking lot security patrols, identification tags and improved video surveillance have been important steps for us at the elementary campus. A comprehensive visitor tracking system was recently purchased for use on the secondary campus. This year we purchased two school buses to replace our aging minibus fleet. Earlier this year we finalized the purchase of 9.2 acres of land next to our existing secondary campus. This provides adequate room in one location for future growth.



Our **volunteer organizations are the backbone** of our school. Both elementary and secondary PTO's provide vital

fund-raising activities to meet ongoing needs. After achieving record fund-raising success in March 2010, PTO plans are underway for another Black & Gold Gala on March 5, 2011. Proceeds from last year's event were used to help fund the secondary building projects; the next event's proceeds will be used to replace student and teacher classroom furniture on the elementary campus. Our Mom's In Touch prayer group lifts up in prayer the needs of our students and faculty. They provide spiritual support and encouragement throughout the year not only with prayer but with notes



of encouragement and gifts. Our Athletic Booster Club provided the funds to build a terrific new concession facility at our football stadium.



In an effort **to improve communications with our constituents**, an improved system for email communications was adopted at the beginning of the school year and the school website will be upgraded in the near future to improve both the look and content. NCS has recently undertaken a multi-faceted marketing campaign in northwest Houston to encourage future enrollment.

This year has been one of **transition for our Board of Trustees**. Our heartfelt thanks go to retiring Board President Gary Chitty, Vice President Don Wiese and members Bob Kraner, Ira Weizel and Mark Crews. All of these men served faithfully for many years to help make NCS what it is today. We are pleased to welcome new trustees Ada Petro and Rod Leis.

Our goal in all of these changes is to provide the **highest level of academic excellence in a Christian environment** where children are treated as individuals in order to develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers, and support. May God continue to bless Northland Christian School throughout the coming years.

Blessings,

Brian Louden, *NCS Board of Trustees President*

M. W. (Buddy) Ellisor, Jr., *Head of School*



## **NCS Foundation Start-up**

We are pleased to announce that the NCS Board of Trustees has established the Northland Christian School Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to be a perpetual source of funding for:

- capital projects
- student scholarships
- faculty endowed chairs
- special needs

An endowment is a vital necessity for any privately funded educational entity. Not only does it provide a source of funding for capital and student needs, but it also undergirds the financial condition of the school.

Our short-term goal is to achieve \$3 million in endowed funds. These funds are set aside to be used for future generations of students seeking a strong academic, Christian education in northwest Houston.



## **NCS Preschool**

The NCS Preschool continues to provide excellent learning opportunities for 18 months-4 year olds. The nurturing environment and exciting curriculum stimulates and encourages learning on all levels.

# *Northland Christian School Supporters*

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NCS Secondary PTO  
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## **Black & Gold Gala Sponsors**

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The Lanier Law Firm  
The Louden Family  
Texas Center for Cosmetic &  
Implant Dentistry

### **Black \$5,000**

The Lanier Law Firm  
The Lanier Law Firm  
The Potter's Wheel

### **White \$2,500**

Friends of Northland Christian School  
The Martina Family

## **Black & Gold Gala Supporters**

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Edmond & Evelyn Bentley  
Bluewater Seafood: Ping Aplin  
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Chuck & Kristen Brown  
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Parents of the Class of 2012  
Parents of the Class of 2013  
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Parents of the Class of 2017  
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