

LIVING GRACE
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LIVING GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Raising Champions

Principal's Message:

Developing our Children's Work Ethic: Working

By Dr. Daniel L. Switzer

One area which I often encourage the students in is their work ethic. As teachers, we talk with them about being committed to excellence and developing the daily study habits necessary to achieve that excellence. We contrast what it means to be half-hearted in doing our work as opposed to whole-hearted in doing our work. We share what it means to do our work for Christ. In this article I would like to talk about developing our children's work ethic—working wholeheartedly as unto the Lord.



Colossians 3:23-24 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (NIV). In order for our children to maximize their potential and realize the Lord's destiny for them, they need to know how to work, how to work with their whole hearts, and how to work as unto Jesus Christ.

Work

First, this passage tells us that in whatever we do, we are to work. The Proverb tells us that "all hard work brings a profit" and warns of the dire consequences of laziness. The Bible teaches the nobility of work. Work is a noble calling.

I tell my students to love work—that the sooner they see hard work as important to life the better. Our children need to know how to work and to embrace work as a major part of their lives. They need to know how to consistently apply themselves to the task at hand. For them, this involves both applying themselves during the school day as well as during their daily study time at home. We talk with the students about how to study and to do what it takes (with all integrity) to get the job done. In other words, when they get up into high school and college, they must be prepared to know how to do the work—the study—in order to succeed in their courses. This ethic may mean that they work five times harder than the next student, but they learn to do what it takes to succeed in all of their courses. Our children need to embrace work as a major priority of life.

Work Wholeheartedly

What does it mean to work wholeheartedly? What does it mean to love God with all of one's heart, soul, mind, and strength? God calls us to give our all to Him; in fact, our children learning to give their all is an important character quality for them to develop. Giving our all to God includes every area of our life; with our work, it includes paid jobs, household chores, and academic pursuits. To work wholeheartedly means that students are putting their whole heart into what they are doing as opposed to half of their heart. It means that they have a single-minded focus. They are not double minded or have a split focus. It means that their mind is engaged on the task at hand—they're not doing one thing and thinking about something else. They're not daydreaming about something else while trying to do their work. All of their faculties are focused on the task at hand.

In addition, working wholeheartedly means that our children are committed to doing their work with excellence. They keep working at the task with persistence until it is done with excellence. When it comes to a writing assignment, they utilize the writing process—planning, writing, rewriting, revising, proofreading, and polishing—to make their writing craft one of excellence. They ask others to proofread their writing assignments to find errors that they have overlooked. Moreover, students committed to wholehearted excellence build into their schedule a regimen that helps them to review their various subjects consistently so they can master the content, especially with subjects such as language, math, science, and history, which have a large body of content.

Work Wholeheartedly for Christ

One day I was reading to my children a fictional story called "Dust

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Supporting the Mission of Living Grace Christian School: Raising Up Champions for God



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Eph. 2:8-10).

Please share with your friends about Living Grace Christian School, a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations. Living Grace Christian School is committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character

Development. Families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

Please pray about supporting LGCS in the following ways:

1. Praying for the school.
2. Becoming a prayer partner—the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking up to twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school.
3. Helping families who cannot pay the full tuition to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.” We are committed to a ministry philosophy of “ministry over money” in which no family is excluded from the school due to financial hardship. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Student Champions Fund” written in the memo.
4. **Supporting the long-term establishment of the school through the “Living Grace Christian School Endowment Fund.” Contributions to this fund support the building of the expanded facility. Checks should be made out to Living Grace Christian School with “Endowment Fund” written in the memo. Also, we ask you to invite family and friends to give toward your child’s school expansion. Gifts can be**

Prayer Needs

As stated above, the school is committed to having consistent prayer support through seeking twelve prayer partners who agree to pray daily for the school. If you would like to be a designated prayer partner, please talk to Dr. Switzer. Obviously, we encourage everyone to be praying for the school—parents, teachers, students, and extended family.



Please pray for the following significant areas:

1. The spiritual life of all parents, teachers, and students, that our relationships with the Lord would be grace-filled and marked by integrity.
2. That parents, teachers, students, and Northgate congregants work together in positive Biblical teamwork and unified relationship.
3. Effective leadership and teaching, and a commitment to Christian discipleship, academic excellence, and godly character development.
4. Walking out our comprehensive plan for parent participation: pray that the teachers would effectively communicate with parents, be receptive and accessible to them, and treat them as partners in the educational process.
5. God’s provision for families, including financial and transportation needs.
6. Parents as they fulfill the role as their child’s primary teachers. Pray that parents would “reserve judgment” when their children give them a negative report about a school situation until they have the opportunity to talk with the respective teacher.
7. Excellent study habits, godly relationships, and prosperous health and safety for the entire student body.
8. Pastors and the larger Body of Christ to increasingly see the need to educate their children in a manner consistent with their Biblical beliefs.
9. Volunteers to help in the classrooms, office, and building.
10. Consistent financial support to help needy families to be able to send their children to the school through the “Student Champions Fund.”
11. The families of all the teachers, parents, and students.
12. That these children would know that God has a plan for their lives; that God would raise up these children to be champions of God—servant leaders of godly character who will advance the cause of Christ and make disciples of all nations! **Thank you for your prayers!**



Developing Our Children's Work Ethic

(continued from page 1)

under the Rug” by Maud Lindsay from William Bennett’s *The Book of Virtues*. This story is about a daughter who did the housecleaning for twelve dwarfs. She was trying to make money to help her sick mother. One day she lost her focus and did not do her household work. As the dwarfs were about to return home from their day’s work, she hastily did her work, cutting corners, and failed to sweep under the rug. Later at night, her conscience would not let her

ignore the fact that she did not sweep under the rug. Feeling convicted, she got out of bed and went to finish this task. As she performed the job of sweeping under the rug, she found twelve beautiful gold pieces. Of course, the moral of the story is that she was rewarded for faithfully doing the task that was “unseen.”

I shared with my children that there is one person who does see all things—and that person is our Lord Jesus Christ. We need to teach our children that God sees all things and that when they are doing their work, they are doing it as if they are doing it for Him. If we—and our children—truly believe that we are working for the Lord, who sees all things, that will dramatically change the quality of our work! Let’s work at inculcating this godly work ethic in our children.

Godly Character Trait for April: Humility

As we pray for our children and the school, I encourage you to refer to the “Prayer Needs” as given in this edition of *Raising Champions*. Please lift up the teachers and the parents as we work on the end-of-quarter grades and share together at the parent-teacher conferences on April 13th. Also, please pray that God would bless the preparation and the administration of the achievement tests, including blessing the students as they take them, on April 25th to the 27th.

During the month of April, we are focusing on the godly character trait of humility. As part of our focus on “The Names of God,” the trait of humility corresponds with the name El Roi, the God who sees. James 3:13 counsels, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” Humility helps us to relate truly with the Lord and to be focused on others as opposed to self. Let’s emphasize this character trait with our children and help them to grow in it.

I pray that God’s abundant wisdom and grace be your rich portion. May God bless you and your family!

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REGISTER CHILDREN FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR!

We encourage you to share with family and friends about Living Grace Christian School. Share your own testimony about what God is doing with your child. We seek to be a school where the parents, teachers, and children work together in positive Biblical teamwork and relationship to raise up champions of God. We are committed to Christian Discipleship, Academic Excellence, and Godly Character Development. Also, families are encouraged to apply for financial assistance based on need.

WAY TO GO, MATH OLYMPIANS!

Our Math Olympics Team placed fourteen of our twenty contestants in the top five for either Computation or Reasoning in the recent ACSI Math Olympics. Here are our Math Olympics champions:

Third grade – Computation: Benjamin Jimenez 5th place, Eden Campbell 4th place, Lia Wong 2nd place

Fourth grade – Computation: Brandon Martinez 5th place, Godwin Johnson 3rd place, Celeste Rauda-Andrade 2nd place
Reasoning: Joshua Switzer 3rd place

Fifth grade – Computation: Daniel Gomez, Nathaniel Fitsum 5th place, Andrew Wong 4th place

Sixth grade—Computation: Isaac Jimenez, Peniel Johnson, Kyle Guardado

Seventh grade – Computation: Promise Johnson, Josue Escalante 5th place, Lidia Michael 4th place

Seventh grade – Reasoning: Jose Camacho 3rd place

Eighth grade – Computation: Bryan Salas, Emily Parr 3rd place, Nehemiah Switzer 1st place*

In Nehemiah’s six years of competition from third grade to eighth grade, he placed first in five competitions and second in one **competition—an outstanding run!**

REMINDERS

TUITION PAYMENTS TO SMART

Please remember that tuition payments are paid directly to the Smart Tuition Management Company. Tuition payments are due to Smart by the fifth of each month, August through May.

REGISTER SOON FOR CAMP COURAGE!

Kids have a fantastic time experiencing all kinds of games, sports, arts and crafts, exciting character-building stories, nature activities, swimming, and more at Camp Courage. God told Joshua, a mighty champion, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” The mission of Camp Courage is to help instill this attitude of courage in your children as they learn to count on the Lord’s continual presence! Directed by Dr. Switzer and Mrs. Switzer, Camp Courage is offering two weeks of its All-Around Program and its Soccer/Games Program.

Parents should have received the red brochure for Camp Courage; if you need an additional brochure, you can pick up one at the office or see Dr.



Parent News



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR BUILDING EXPANSION!

We ask each family to make a pledge as part of the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the building expansion. Dr. Switzer encourages us to prayerfully give as unto the Lord. We are laying up eternal treasure that will result in student champions being used by the Lord to make disciples for decades to come. If you are not doing the automatic debit option, we ask that you give your donations on the third Friday of the month. There is a box in the school entryway for your donations. For the month of April, we ask you to send in your pledges on April 28th.

WAY TO GO WITH STUDENT CHAMPIONS FUND DRIVE!

We want to thank all of those families who reached out to family and friends to raise funds for this great cause: to help parents to be able to send their children to the school to be raised up to be champions for Christ. As a school family, we've raised about \$12,500! About fifty students, who raised at least \$250, will enjoy the All-You-Can-Eat Pizza Party with Dr. Switzer on Monday, April 10th. We are grateful for your giving donations and for your pursuing donors for this very worthy cause—our students, their families, and future champions and their families!

FAMILY DAY IS COMING!

Our annual Family Day is an outstanding opportunity for you as a family and for us as a school family to fellowship together and to cheer on our children. Please set aside Friday, May 12th, to join us for this special occasion. We will have a great day of games, fun, fellowship, and refreshment together. Family Day will be on the grounds of the school and the adjoining park.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you did not receive tuition financial assistance for the present school year and want to apply for assistance for next school year, see Dr. Switzer for instructions regarding how to apply online. Any applications for financial assistance need to be made by May 1st.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

In order to work together with strong two-way communication, we have our third quarter parent-teacher conference, one of our four team meetings. A memo was recently sent home with your conference time on Thursday, April 13th. Both parents are encouraged to attend. If you cannot make your designated time, please be sure to talk with the teacher ahead of time to arrange an alternative time for that day. These are important times for teachers and parents to work together to address areas needing improvement and to provide students with specific encouragement.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

This year we raised about \$220 through the Box Tops Program. Way to go! We want to encourage each family to continue collecting Box Tops for next school year's collection.

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS APRIL 25-27 FOR FIRST THROUGH TENTH GRADERS!

Help your children get ready for these achievement tests by making sure they get a good night's rest and a good breakfast. Encourage them to listen attentively to their teacher and to concentrate to do their best on these important annual assessments. Because there are no make-ups, please make sure your child is at school by 8:15 a.m. and please don't schedule any doctors' appointments on these dates.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 K-2nd Grade Field Trip to	7 Report Cards issued	8
9	10 Champions	11	12	13 Dismissal at 12:00 P/T Conferences	14 Spring Break No School	15
16	17 Spring Break No School	18 Spring Break No School	19 Spring Break No School	20 Spring Break No School	21 Spring Break No School	22
23	24	25 Achievement Tests No Make-ups	26 Achievement Tests No Make-ups	27 Achievement Tests No Make-ups	28 Bldg Pledges!	29

“For I know the plans I have for you . . . plans to give you hope and a future” (Jer. 29:11).

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