

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS
NORTHLAKE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL January 5, 2012
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In the late 1970s, the vision for NCS was simple - to provide a Christ-centered, excellent education. That vision, simply-stated, has NOT changed. Proverbs 29:18 reads: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." With a clear understanding of where we are headed, and an appreciation of where we have been, the probability of our success as a Christ-centered school of excellence is unlimited.

Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request.

If you tune into a typical "state of the union" address you hope to hear the words "the state of the union is getting better, good, strong, better than ever", etc. NCS doesn't have an Endowment or Wolverine Foundation - YET; we don't have a fully funded retirement fund for our employees - YET; NCS isn't "debt-free" - YET; nor do we have multiple-campusess reaching across St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes - YET. BUT, there is strong evidence that God continues to bless this institution with new families, gifted faculty and staff members, an excellent Christ-centered curriculum, and expanding facilities. We have been BLESSED indeed!

80 new families this past fall with 12-15 new students joining us this week! Continuing to enjoy a new Preschool and Athletic Field/Stadium, we were blessed this year with the addition of Founders' Hall and the new Slim Gym Cafeteria building (which also included restrooms and concessions for baseball/softball) God continues to bless as we work on completing the new home of the Discovery Center

In a school like ours, we depend on the day-to-day leadership of our gifted and capable staff, but no more than we depend on the input and participation of our volunteers. We have a volunteer Board of Directors who set policy and help guide our work. We are blessed by the fruit of labor performed by volunteers from everything like our Development Committee, Auction Committee, Annual Fund Committee, PTF including room moms and grade level chairmen - to pizza volunteers, gate keepers, concessions workers, Tuesday folders, and hospitality in general.

As God enlarges our territory, there's no reason why we shouldn't realize and witness the establishment and growth of a healthy Endowment, a generous and fully-funded retirement fund for our employees, a "debt-free" operating budget, the reality of multiple campuses and the building out of our current campus to include additional acquisition of adjacent land, a track and field facility with locker rooms and meeting spaces for existing and future athletic teams, paved roads and additional parking lots, a competition aquatic facility, a Chapel and performing arts facility, a tennis complex, and finally - a second and third entrance/exit to our property!

We **DEPEND** on GOD's blessing! Everyday, I pray for God to continue to send new students to NCS. Tuition is our chief income which makes sense because developing students is our business. There is a very large private school within 30 minutes of NCS whose budgeted "shortfall" is 15% of their projected budget. In comparison, ours is less than 5% when we do not budget completely or at an inflated rate for gifts to make up the difference. Likewise, we do not project inflated enrollment figures. Can you imagine receiving a brochure telling you that in addition to your tuition (theirs is \$12-15K annually) your family will be expected to pay an additional \$2400 -\$200 per month, to "bridge the gap"?! Our costs have increased and are reflected in obvious places of growth and expansion:

\$16K tier/merit raises

\$26K credit card/Ren-web online payment fees

\$27K utilities increases (buildings, field lights)

\$100K student attrition (NO new students to replace matriculation)

Likewise, I pray for God's people to be generous to NCS. Without a significant gift two years ago, we could never have begun construction of the cafeteria/slim gym. Without the generosity of one family we would not have realized the construction of the preschool facility and Founders' Hall. We must have ongoing activities to contribute to debt-reduction and continued growth and expansion initiatives. This is why it is important to participate in the Annual Fund and to support and participate in the annual auction, Joie de Vie.

PLEASE KEEP ME FROM EVIL

If you dropped into one of the faculty devotions which I lead weekly (and there are

others daily), you would find us completing a study of I Corinthians. In recent years we have studied John's Gospel, I and II Peter, James, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians (next year I hope to go through Romans and perhaps the Book of Acts). Each week, and with each group there is one common prayer: recognizing God's blessing, we sincerely ask for His hand of protection or guidance and deliverance on our daily activities.

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Members of the Board of Directors, Faculty and Staff, and Parents and Friends of NCS, the State of our School is Strong and prayerfully growing **STRONGER!!**