

## Accreditation Visit

Every five to six years, DCS goes through the accreditation process with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). When our school initially achieved accreditation in 2003, it was a landmark achievement accomplished by years of hard work by the DCS staff. Although accreditation does not ensure a successful school, it does provide a catalyst for documenting and implementing actions, which do improve the school. In short, when a school is accredited, it is held to higher standards than schools without accreditation.



There are plenty of benefits for parents and for students who attend an accredited school. First, ACSI accreditation ensures that DCS students upon graduation can attend any university or college they gain admittance to.

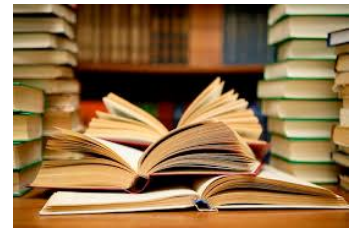
Second, ACSI accreditation also ensures our staff and school programs meet certain standards of professionalism, accountability, student achievement, and most importantly Biblical integration.

During the week of April 9<sup>th</sup>, DCS will once again go through the accreditation process. We will host a team of four educators from around the region, whose job will be to evaluate our schools' ministry, operational procedures, and educational programs. Please feel free to welcome these evaluators to our campus.

- Principal Zachary Davidson

## Recent News

**READ-A-THON:** During the month of March, elementary students participated in a hugely successful two-week READ-A-THON for their spring fundraiser. Mid-way through the month, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with in-class reading time, double points for reading, in-class rocking chairs and "book worm" treats. Kindergarteners through 6th graders read a combined total of over thirty-nine thousand recorded minutes! Our students met the school goal and raised more than enough to cover the cost of implementing a LEGO-based STEM enrichment program.



As an extra bonus, each student who met his or her individual reading goal will be awarded a piece of duct tape at the next elementary assembly! This will be no ordinary duct tape though. Students will use the duct tape to suspend Principal Davidson up on the gym wall.



**FAMILY FUN NIGHT:** We had a lot of fun at this year's Family Fun Night! There were over 100 participants in attendance! Families were grouped into teams and enthusiastically ran through the school's halls solving riddles and performing various challenges. The stations included games like decoding mystery foods, playing memory, unraveling rope puzzles, solving word scrambles, playing human pin ball, bowling for

dinosaurs, herding ping pong balls, and following a library scavenger hunt. This was a blast for all ages as parents, children, and teachers worked together to solve fun challenges!

During this event, parents were given the opportunity to bless our teachers with donations toward classroom resources. Most of the staff's "wishes" have been covered, but there are a few items still remaining. If you would like to donate toward these remaining educational resources, please see the complete list of items on the DCS auction page, at <http://www.dcs4you.org/super-family-fun-night-auction-2017/>.



**FUNDRAISING RESULTS:** Through the Family Fun Night and Read-a-thon, DCS has raised nearly \$12,000 through donations and pledges. Thank you to all who have helped these events be a success and provide needed resources to our teachers.

Next fall, we will hold our annual formal auction. Stay tuned for details! Your help is needed in planning and preparing for this big gala, so please email or call Kristie Herdener, if you would like to help in any way. [Auction.dcs@gmail.com](mailto:Auction.dcs@gmail.com) or 503-658-4100, ext. 105.

### **ELEMENTARY AWARDS FOR MARCH:**

Each month, elementary teachers acknowledge a few students, who demonstrate characteristics of David, Solomon, and Paul (spiritual fruits). The following students were recipients for the month of March. Great job everyone!

DAVID AWARD	SOLOMON AWARD	PAUL AWARD for Faithfulness
K Ethan Magda-Strava	Alissa Ryan	Angelina Voloshin
1st Spencer Mortell	Kaydie Briece	Jonathan Koval
2nd Stephen Marshall	Evan Goodin	Haavah Lorenzen
3rd Gabriella Pappas	Loraina Phifer	Levi McClellan
4th Georgia Schaefer-Bess	Nick Yarnell	Eva Ryan
5th Ben McClellan	Gemma Kleve	Demetri Carandanis
6th Abbigayle Bailey	Grae Miller	McKenna Phifer

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2017: Highest Honors and Honors**

### **- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

#### **Highest Honors:**

Reece Miller  
Kate Nelson  
Georgia Bess  
Wyatt Sussman

#### **Honors:**

Brayden Adler  
John Briece

Tori Myers  
Eva Ryan  
Georgia Schaefer Bess  
Teagan Smith  
Devin Trost  
Garrett Walsh  
Nick Yarnell

### **- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

#### **Highest Honors:**

Esther Davidson  
Ransom Lorenzen  
Ben McClellan

#### **Honors:**

Samantha Boyette  
Sarah Budey  
Zachary Herdener  
Cole Myers  
Cole Patrick

Keira Roush  
Will Sussman

**- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Abbey Atkins  
Sierra Hale  
Grae Miller  
Julia Mitchell  
McKenna Phifer  
Emily Werth

**Honors:**

Abbigayle Bailey  
Natalie Gohman  
Maksim Leontiy

**- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Andrea Bogdan  
Noah Carandanis  
Tim Chepelevich  
Carter Clear  
Ian Gustafsson  
Nathan Larson  
Chloe Means  
Zachary Nelson  
Emily Powers

**Honors:**

Ben Green  
Griffin Hill  
David Nacrelli  
Claire Watts  
Daniel Wilson

**- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Brooklyn Bresko  
Savannah Hale  
Nathan Henry  
Luke Sullins  
Noelle Wakefield

**Honors:**

Kayleigh MacGibbon  
Melissa Manning  
McKenna Patrick  
Nina Piscitello

**- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Ana Chepelevich  
Axel Clear  
Adrienne Mai  
Keon Miller  
Spencer Powers  
Laura Rojas

**Honors:**

Katie Bailey  
Matthew Mitchell  
Rhett Richards  
Jacob Zakharyuk

**- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Shane Atkins

Lucas Nelson  
Samuel Titchenal

**Honors:**

Jonathan Shields

**- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Micah Gandara  
Joshua Mitchell

**Honors:**

Michael Allen  
Jackson Hill  
Tyler Mai  
Ryan Patrick  
Anna Vanacore

**- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade -**

**Highest Honors:**

Jacob Atkins  
Kyle Butz  
Silas Marvin  
Beau Moody  
Seth Murphy  
Moses Wakefield

**Honors:**

Debbie Gerhardus  
Joy Kendall  
Ariane Mabano  
Allyson Paullin  
Savannah Sullivan

## Upcoming Events

**FINE ARTS FAIR and OPEN HOUSE:** Please come and experience the creative side of DCS. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, DCS will be hosting an open house to showcase the many talents of our K-12 students. This is a special opportunity to view works of art and products created through art, cooking, shop, technology, and music classes. The Fine Arts Fair will be held from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. Please invite friends who are contemplating enrolling their kids at DCS.

**WHEN THE WORLD ZIGS, ZAG!:** Be the first to discover how DCS is focusing its endeavors in the 2017-2018 school year to grow as a standout school within our community. Come to this special event to find out about our school's revised vision



and mission and our future building campaign. This all-parent informational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th, from 7 - 8 P.M.

**OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS AND DATES:** Just like around Christmas time, the end of the school year brings with it a number of events that fill the calendar. Please encourage your students to end this last quarter academically strong and to enjoy their time with teachers and classmates before we depart for summer.

- Fine Arts Fair/Open House – Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>
- Secondary Spring Fling – Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>
- Accreditation Team Visit – Sunday–Wednesday, April 9-12<sup>th</sup>
- Good Friday (Regular School Day) – Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>
- All-Parent Informational Meeting–Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.
- DCC Men’s Getaway, cost \$79, Friday–Sunday, April 28-30<sup>th</sup>
- Mid-Term Reports – Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>
- *Matchmaker* Drama Production – Thursday–Saturday, May 4-6<sup>th</sup>
- Junior/Senior Dessert – Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>
- *Matchmaker* Drama Production – Thursday–Saturday, May 11-13<sup>th</sup>

## Staff Spotlight: Jennifer Miller



I was born and raised in Milwaukie, OR. I graduated from Rex Putnam High School and Mt. Hood Community College, with an Associate’s of Applied Science. I have lived in Happy Valley, with my husband Scott, for eighteen years. We have three children that attend DCS: Keon (9th ), Grae (6th), and Reece (4th.)

I was raised in the Christian church and was baptized at age thirteen. My walk with Christ strengthened greatly as I entered my adult years.

Music has been a huge part of my life. I began taking piano lessons at the age of five on a clunky old church piano that I cleaned the church to earn. I loved that old piano, with no ivories on the keys! We did not have a lot of money, so my mom cleaned my piano teacher’s house, so I could have lessons. As I learned, I began to accompany my mom at church, who was a vocalist. And then I began to play for worship. As I grew older, my skill sets expanded, and I focused on accompanying all kinds of choirs, bands, orchestras, and soloists. I also began teaching piano lessons.

Playing for worship became a passion—my way of thanking God. As I look back over my life, I can see the hand of God shaping and molding me through His gift of music. I could not understand as a young child that He would use music to grow my walk with Him, to get through some very difficult times in my life, to pay my way through school, and to give me opportunity to express my love for Him when words fail. It was His gift to me—His promise of faithfulness that I hold precious and dear!

I came to DCS as the elementary music teacher when my daughter started first grade. This was the encouragement (& prodding!) of Dave Wakefield. I have been thankful and blessed to see God open yet

another door of music opportunity and growth in His never-ending faithfulness! I love to share my joy and God's love through the ministry of music to children!

## Sport and Extra-Curricular Highlights

**SPRING SPORTS:** Track is underway! Take advantage of a Saturday or weekday afternoon and go watch our students run, jump and throw at an area track meet. See the DCS website for schedule information.



### **SECONDARY BASKETBALL SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:**

#### **Junior High Girls**

The Junior High Girls Basketball team had a terrific season making it all the way to the championship game. Teamwork, positive attitudes and coach-ability all contributed to their success. The team was dedicated and worked hard to improve throughout the season.

- Coach Powers

#### **Junior High Boys**

This year's junior high boys were a great group of boys to coach. They were fun, listened well, and worked hard. They did everything I asked of them. We were a young team with nine 7<sup>th</sup> graders and three 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Towards the end of the season, we were plagued with what every team dreads, sickness and injuries. Everybody had to step up, and they responded very well. They were a great bunch of boys, and I enjoyed coaching them this season. I look forward to seeing them grow as players, leaders and followers of Christ.

- Coach Briggs

#### **JV Boys**

The Junior Varsity boys program had a great year. We were fortunate enough to run two teams, and both showed improvement throughout the season.



Our JV1 team competed against most of the same schools as our varsity, and after dropping 2 of our first 3 games, quickly regrouped to make it through the rest of the season without another loss. Our JV2 team was comprised of our freshman athletes, and due to the lack of JV2 teams at other schools our size, got the opportunity to compete against local 3A and 4A schools. They had an excellent season, with their only two losses coming against a 4A opponent.

Our athletes on both teams consistently competed with heart and integrity. I was proud of how they represented our school and more importantly our Lord. It was a privilege to get the opportunity to coach them this season. I look forward to watching many of them make the step up to varsity next season, and seeing all of them continue to grow in their walk with Christ.

- Coach Powers

#### **Varsity Girls**

At the start of the season it was in doubt whether we would have enough players to field a team. After much convincing, we put out on the floor 7 kids. These seven kids made magic happen. They finished the year with an impressive overall record of 23-4. Finished as co-league champs and then district champions. After districts the team beat Willamette Valley in a contest that qualified them





for the final 8 at Baker City. Who would have thought Baker City was in the plans? Congratulations on a great season lady eagles.

- Coach Wakefield

### Varsity Boys

The DCS Boys Varsity Basketball team just completed another outstanding season. Although their record of 21-5 was impressive, the team missed going to the annual Baker City State Tournament by 1 point in a hard fought sub-state game against North Douglas, who eventually got 4<sup>th</sup> in state overall. Another heart breaking 1-point loss came earlier in the season to the eventual 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in state, Perrydale. Other highlights during the season include winning the South Wasco Tournament, winning the Valley 10 District Championship finishing 15-0 in league play and coming 1 point from finishing with a perfect record at home finishing 10-1. Although this team is graduating five seniors from the team, of which two were voted all league first team, we should have another strong team next year given the strong junior, sophomore and freshman class this year.



- Coach Swanson

**SPRING DRAMA PRODUCTION:** Over a dozen of our students are working hard to prepare lines, costumes, and an enthralling theatrical performance of Thorton Wilder's



***Matchmaker.*** This is a tale of a matchmaker who desires the man she's suppose to be pairing with another woman. Performances will run Thursday through Saturday nights, May 4-6<sup>th</sup> and 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available for purchase soon.

### Damascus Community Church

**Sunday Services:** 8:15 & 11:00 AM

**Community Groups:** 9:45 AM

**Children's Sunday School:** 8:15, 9:45 & 11:00 AM

**Zachary Davidson**  
Principal, Damascus Christian  
School

**Website:** [www.dcs4you.org/](http://www.dcs4you.org/)  
**Email:** [zach.davidson@damascuscc.org](mailto:zach.davidson@damascuscc.org)

**Address:** 14251 SE Rust Way, Damascus, OR 97089

**Phone:** (503) 658-4100