



March 25, 2010

Dear Parents,

We are writing to you for one simple reason – ENROLLMENT! Our school program lives and dies on student numbers.

We have changed Grace Academy to answer the question, does it honor God and is it best for kids? We have purposefully and intentionally introduced changes at all levels of our K-12 program. Our belief is that no two years should be exactly the same, just as no two classes should be instructed the same.

As you look at **your** enrollment decision, please reflect on how far we have grown the organization in the last 24 months. With God's help, our plan is to continue to grow and move forward. But keep in mind this does not happen overnight; it takes time and your continued support and cooperation.

To aid in your reflection, we have constructed a bulleted list of the major changes we have initiated:

#### Elementary

- Created a K3 program
- Have an onsite Reading Specialist
- Developed enrichment and remediation programming with onsite reading specialist
- Customized programs with the needs of each individual classroom

#### Middle School/High School

- Started an International Student program
- Began a middle school program
- Reconfigured the 6-12 schedule to accommodate individual student programming
- Created internship opportunities for seniors
- Connected with Hagerstown Community College for college credit coursework

#### All

- Hired a part-time Counselor
- Hired a technology integrator to assist both students and teachers
- Put in place two SMART classrooms
- Implemented a hot lunch program

- Focused Chapels to be age appropriate and relevant
- Introduced distance learning curriculum for K-12
- Developed a cost saving partnership with Broadfording Christian Academy
- Survey of the parents – twice each year for their feedback (Spring/Fall)
- Reconfigured the Grace @Home program

#### Staff

- Coherent professional development program for the faculty
- All personnel formally evaluated yearly

As you can see, we have grown the program from top to bottom. Our next list is areas that will be our primary focus in the 2011 school term. We have spent much of our time focusing on the elementary program and now will be focusing on the secondary program.

- Placing students in developmentally appropriate math and language arts classes **(MS/HS)**
- Customizing program to meet the needs of individual grade levels **(MS)**
- Implementing pre/post test assessments in each class to measure learning **(MS/HS)**
- Developing a working relationship with Hagerstown Community College and its testing center for secondary tracking and testing **(MS/HS)**
- Rewriting of curriculum to state and national standards **(K3-12)**
- Requiring Product Driven Assessments (i.e. Science Fair, Geography Fair or Literature Fair) **(Elem/MS/HS)**
- Requiring Final exam in Bible, where students orally defend their belief **(HS)**
- Focusing curriculum on higher order thinking skills **(3-12)**
- Requiring online course for graduation **(HS)**
- Creating clubs/activities with a period in the day in which to complete them **(MS/HS)**
- Adding educational opportunities/classes to the current schedule **(All)**
- Bringing in Specialty Instructors to work with our current staff & students **(All)**
- Placing mini computer labs within the classroom **(Various levels)**

To close, we ask you to prayerfully consider re-enrolling your son or daughter. We are not perfect at Grace Academy; we know of no organization that is. However, we will never hide from our responsibilities. We consider our work a high calling, and the care of your child is never far from our minds. We will never be satisfied and will always strive for improvement.

It is a privilege to serve you and your children. We are excited about what God has in store for Grace Academy.

Jack E. Appleby  
Headmaster

Nikki Bowers  
K-8 Principal

Brian Kelley  
6-12 Principal