BLESSINGS ABOUND!

LAKELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
The mission of Lakeland Christian School is to **EDUCATE STUDENTS** in the light of **GOD’S WORD** to equip them for a **LIFETIME** of **LEARNING**, leadership, service and worship.
FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents, Alumni and Friends of LCS,

This inaugural edition of the LCS Annual Report focuses on the 2011-12 school year. In subsequent years we plan to publish the annual report in late fall. Our goals are to provide a snapshot of the progress of the school, increase transparency related to financial matters and to express appreciation for the generous financial support that has blessed LCS throughout the year.

During 2011-12 the school completed a lengthy and deliberate process of revising the school’s mission statement and formulating a listing of ten core values. The school’s mission has not changed, but a more focused and up-to-date expression of that mission was developed.

In February, LCS hosted visiting evaluation teams from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), The Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS), The Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC), and The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). All agencies granted LCS accreditation renewal through 2017.

LCS sought outside counsel to strengthen our enrollment efforts. We are grateful for the participation of parents, staff and alumni in various surveys and focus groups that assisted us in the reorganization of the enrollment office and processes. These changes have enabled us to improve our service to both current and incoming families.

Many exciting happenings are enumerated in the following pages, but this report would not be complete without a sad note. Mr. R.P. Robbins went home to glory in November of 2011. He was a founding board member and served on the board from 1954-2007. All of us who enjoy the LCS of today owe a profound debt of gratitude for his commitment and service to the mission of LCS for more than 53 years.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to see God’s faithfulness to LCS for the past 40 years. The partnership of parents, staff and board members has been blessed by God to create a very special place. May God enable us to be faithful stewards of the sacred trust that is LCS.

With Appreciation,

Mike Sligh, Ed. D.
Headmaster
FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dear LCS Family and Friends,

What a privilege to serve on the Board of Directors of Lakeland Christian School, one of the premier Christian schools in our country. It is an honor to serve alongside men and women who understand the high calling of providing oversight to this outstanding institution. I am pleased to have been a Board Member for 22 years and have served as Chairman for the past 14.

My first involvement with LCS was 23 years ago when the oldest of my three children entered kindergarten. Although I knew, even then, that LCS was a special place, I certainly couldn’t fully foresee the tremendous blessings Lakeland Christian would provide to my family through the years.

I now look forward to an additional role on campus – my oldest grandchild, as a four-year-old, has begun what we anticipate will be a long and fruitful period of his life as an LCS student. And what a time to be affiliated with Lakeland Christian School. LCS is, truly, a school on the move!

On behalf of my fellow Board members, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your partnership with the school, as we count on your engagement in this critical undertaking of Christian schooling.

I am pleased to report that LCS is fiscally strong; enjoying robust enrollment; blessed with skilled, Christian, professional educators; and equipped with marvelous facilities.

Most important, though – what a blessing that LCS students are taught to view all the world from the perspective of God’s Word. Although we have challenging academics, championship athletics and award-winning fine arts, the true distinctive of Lakeland Christian School is that the Scriptures form the foundation upon which all the students’ pursuits are built.

Finally, let me express my gratitude to those faithful stewards who financially support the mission and on-going work of LCS. Excellent Christian schooling is expensive, and we count on private support to keep Lakeland Christian vibrant. You are standing beside us as we equip the next generation for a life of learning, leadership, service and worship.

May God bless your family in 2013!

Kevin C. Knowlton
Senior Shareholder, Peterson & Myers, P.A.
Chairman, LCS Board of Directors
We trust this first-ever Lakeland Christian School Annual Report will reflect the goodness of God to our school. Through His gracious provision, we have experienced abundant blessings in every facet of school life. We are grateful for His sustaining presence through the years and for how we continue to experience His goodness.

We strive to honor God through the management of our school finances and to continue to be wise stewards of gracious contributions to LCS. In our desire for transparency, we present the information on the following pages as a report on the blessed condition of Lakeland Christian School for the 2011-12 year.
Lakeland Christian is one of the nation’s premier private Christian Schools, providing challenging academics, championship athletics and award-winning fine arts. The school’s primary distinction, though, is the Biblical worldview that permeates every facet of school life. LCS truly sharpens minds and shepherds hearts by providing education in the light of God’s Word.
The School

- County’s oldest and largest K4-12 private school – established in 1954
- Non-denominational
- Biblical worldview
- Extensive co-curricular program
- School families represent more than 140 different local churches
- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and the Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC)
- Member of the following associations: Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools (FAANS), Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), Florida Vocal Association (FVA), Florida School Music Association (FSMA)

Academics

- Engaging and challenging curriculum
- 95% of graduates pursue college
- Tests scores exceed local, state and national averages (see http://www.lcsonline.org/high-school/test-scores)
- 32 AP and Honors courses offered

Faculty

- Student-to-faculty ratio is 15:1
- 29% of faculty hold master’s degrees
- 35% of teachers have taught at LCS for 10 years or more

Athletics

- 42 teams in 13 sports, grades 6-12
- 20 State titles
- Outstanding on-campus stadium and gym
- 65% of students in grades 6-12 participate in athletics

Arts

- Award-winning band and choir programs
- Musical production and play each year
- 40% of students in grades 6-12 participate in the Fine Arts program
Board Chairman Kevin Knowlton describes Lakeland Christian as a school “on the move!” Need evidence? Look no further than the following partial listing of accomplishments, milestones, triumphs, honors, successes and blessings of every kind!
**Academic**

**Elementary**
- In an effort to meet the needs of all students, the Total School Cluster instructional model was implemented in the elementary school.
- Mr. Fred Wiechmann transitioned from his role as Elementary Principal into a new position as the Science Resource Teacher for the elementary school. Fred’s passion for environmental education is a unique and valuable asset to LCS.
- Fifth graders conducted an interview via Skype with Fox News producer and 2002 LCS alum Lanna (Daniel) Britt. Lanna is a producer for Brett Baier’s nightly Special Report.

**Middle School**
- Julia Canady and Brandon Kaye were chosen to represent LCS at the State Science Fair. Julia won first place in the Botany category, and Brandon earned fifth place in the Environmental Science category.
- Cheyenne Stonick won first place in the Polk County Family Essay contest.
- Nine middle school students represented LCS at the 49th Annual Science, Engineering and Humanities Symposium at the University of Florida.
- Four middle school students were chosen to present their science project research at the PolySTEM conference.
- Middle school students participated in the VFW Patriot’s Pen essay competition. Jacob Allen received first place for District 4, and Maddie Pistoria earned second place. Gloria Tabb won awards from posts 4289, 2297 and 2420.
- The Middle School Research Team spent a weekend camping at Payne’s Prairie State Preserve outside of Gainesville. They took a behind-the-scenes tour of the Butterfly Rainforest and research facility at the Florida Museum of Natural History and spent time with Dr. Tom Emmel, an eminent researcher and the Director of the Maguire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity.
  - Thanks to the generosity of a school grandparent, LCS middle school students are using the Weather Bug program to study weather in exciting and innovative ways using real-time data.
  - LCS began implementing plans for a new 1:1 iPad initiative. Teachers started training on how to incorporate more technology for the 2012-13 school year when the initiative would begin. All students in grades 6-8 will have their own personal iPad for use in the classroom.

**High School**
- Eighteen high school students earned AP Scholar Awards.
- Senior Ciara Atkinson was chosen to represent LCS at Girls’ State.
- Senior Emily Behrens won the Rotary Club District speech contest.
- Senior Zach Varnum was selected to receive the DAR Good Citizen Award.
- Seventy-two seniors graduated in June. Troy Schiebel was the valedictorian of the class of 2012. Cameron Underwood was the salutatorian, and Mark Mutz earned the Christian Leadership Award.

**Colleges that the 2012 seniors planned to attend:**

- Auburn University
- Clearwater Christian College
- University of Central Florida
- Florida State University
- Santa Fe College
- University of Alabama
- University of Florida
- Polk State College
- Southeastern University
- Middle Georgia College
- University of North Florida
- Samford University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- DePaul University
- Clemson University
- St. Leo University
- Heidelberg University
- Jacksonville University
- Palm Beach Atlantic University
- Brevard College
- University of South Florida
- Geneva College
- Houghton College
- Florida Atlantic University
- Georgia Southwestern University
- Baylor University
- Liberty University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Hillsong International College
- Mercer University
- Youngstown State University
Multi-Level

- Five teams participated in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition, and one team made it to the State tournament.
- Four students won first place at the annual Association of Christian Schools International Math Olympics.
- The 2010-2011 LCS Archery team participated in the NASP World Archery Tournament in October 2011.
- The 2011-12 Archery Team won the State championship in February 2012. Eighth grader Jessie Andrew was the overall female winner. Makaylee Graves won the high school female division. Garrison Hodge was the top male archer in the high school male division. Coach James Moore won first place in the coach division. The team was featured by Fox13 News.

Athletics

- LCS athletic teams tallied four District Championships during the 2011-12 school year: girls’ cross country, girls’ soccer, baseball and boys’ track.
- New head coach Wayne Peace led the Viking football team to a record-breaking season; more than 21 records were re-written during the 2011 season.
- Coach Mike Musick was the All-County Girls’ Cross Country Coach of the Year.
- Senior Mark Mutz qualified for the State Cross Country meet and placed fourth in the 5K with a time of 15:58:46.
- Senior Mitch Devore qualified for the State Dive meet where he finished in 14th place.
- Mike Carl was named the FACA 3A District 13 Coach of the Year for girls’ basketball.
- Senior Whitney Houk was named the FACA 3A District 13 Player of the Year for girls’ basketball.
- The varsity girls’ basketball team earned the FHSAA All Academic Team award with a cumulative team GPA of 3.729.
- The girls’ varsity soccer team earned the Soccer Officials Association Sportsmanship Award.
- After winning the District Championship, the varsity baseball team went on to its first-ever Regional Semifinal appearance in the school’s history.
- Blane Fox was named the FACA 3A District 13 Coach of the Year for baseball.
- Seven track athletes qualified for the State Track and Field meet; four athletes placed in the top 15 in their event.
- Senior Michael Wheary became the first Division One football recruit from LCS when he signed to play at Youngstown State.
- Senior Tyler Leach signed with Brevard College for baseball.
- Senior Jarrod Cochran signed with Middle Georgia College to play soccer.
- Senior Mason Bellar signed with Southeastern University to play tennis.
- Senior Mark Mutz signed with the University of Florida to run cross-country and track.
- Seniors Molly Rice and Mark Mutz were named Mandy Stoll Award winners.
- Mark Mutz was named to the 2012 FHSAA Academic All-State Team.
- Eight seniors were named to The Ledger’s 2012 All-Academic Team.
- Elementary students had the opportunity to participate in the Flag Football League and Junior Cheerleader Clinic.
Fine Arts

- The Musical Harvest event in February featured contemporary Christian pop artist and Lakeland native Jonny Diaz along with more than 115 student musicians. The event raised $34,000 and helped purchase a new baby grand piano for the Music Department. The remaining balance was used for student financial aid.
- Senior Cameron Underwood was selected to march with the Macy’s Great American Marching Band at the annual Thanksgiving parade.
- Piano students participated in the annual Ridge Music Teachers’ Multiple Piano Festival.
- Ethan Anderson, a Discovery Program student, received an award for his artwork at the USF College of Education’s 2012 Children’s Festival.
- The high school Chamber and Ensemble performed the National Anthem at a Detroit Tiger’s spring training game.
- Seven high school musicians were chosen to participate in All-State band and choir.
- For the third year in a row, Stephanie Powers was awarded the Mary Ellis Smith scholarship presented by the Ridge Music Teachers’ Association.
- The High School Concert Choir and the LCS Chamber Ensemble each earned a superior at the State Music Performance Assessment (MPA).
- The high school art students had artwork featured at Arts on the Park in downtown Lakeland during April. The show was held in the Member’s Gallery and artwork was available for purchase.
- The Elementary Art Festival was held in May and featured artwork by all elementary students. ACSI art awards were presented during the show.
- The Fine Arts department presented “The Sound of Music” in October. The drama department presented “Get Smart” in March.

Faculty Accomplishments

- LCS hosted evaluation teams from the Association of Christian Schools International, the Florida Council of Independent Schools, the Florida Kindergarten Council, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. These visits were an important part of the accreditation renewal process and marked the culmination of three years of preparation by the school staff. LCS received exceptionally positive reviews and accreditation renewal for the next five years.
- Mrs. Julie Rice was appointed as the school’s first Director of Enrollment.
- Mrs. Barb Moore received the “Best Mannered Teacher” award from the National League of Junior Cotillions.
- Dr. Sligh was recognized in June for his 40 years of service to Lakeland Christian School.
- Fred Wiechmann received an environmental award from Woodmen of the World.

Extraordinary Opportunities

- The LCS RISE Institute began during the 2011-12 school year. RISE stands for Research, Innovation, STEM Learning and Entrepreneurship. This research team, directed by Mrs. Jennifer Canady, provides research opportunities for middle school students who are passionate about science. The team conducts independent research; partners with other researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs; and gets hands-on experience through various field trips.
- LCS implemented a college-level Life Calling class that helps students develop an understanding of the concept of life calling and the discovery of one’s God-given desire as a basis for this calling. Students evaluate values, spiritual gifts, interests, abilities, personality traits and experience.
- Several high school students, along with the eighth grade Teen Leadership Class, participated in the Leadership Rocks Conference in Orlando. The one-day event featured author, theologian and apologist, Dr. Josh McDowell.
- More than 65 students participated in summer training as part of the Student Leadership University. One group of students (SLU 101) went to Orlando, and the second group (SLU 201) spent a week in Washington, D.C.
High school Spanish students traveled to Peru on the annual Cultural Enrichment Tour. The group experienced Cuzco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and Lima.

The Senior Class of 2012 traveled to Strong Rock Camp in Georgia to help prepare the facilities for the upcoming summer camp season.

Rick Newberry of Enrollment Catalyst completed an assessment of the enrollment and marketing strategies of LCS. Focus groups and surveys resulted in positive feedback for the school.

The second annual “Bids, Burgers and All That Jazz” spring auction raised $60,000 for student financial aid and for the Fine Arts program.

The 2011 Boosterthon raised $44,000 to help cover the cost of adding shade to the elementary playgrounds.

Lakeland Christian School awarded a record level of financial aid for the 2011-12 school year. Check out the financial information in this annual report for more details.

A campus-wide WiFi network was installed, giving students and faculty immediate access to data from their computers and mobile devices.

Community Building

LCS hosted more than 500 guests on campus in November for the annual Grandparent and Grand-friend’s Day in the elementary school.

Lakeland Christian School students donated a record 264 shoeboxes to the Operation Christmas Child program sponsored by Samaritan’s Purse.

Students collected canned goods for the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for Lighthouse Ministries.

During the Christmas season, students organized a toy drive and candy cane sale benefitting Parker Street Ministries.
LCS enjoyed seven consecutive years of record enrollment. With the world’s recessing economy, though, the number of students in private schools has decreased across the country. Lakeland Christian has been blessed to have maintained steady enrollment during this time of economic uncertainty.

We are thankful for our students and for their families who have committed to Christian schooling for their children.
Lakeland Christian has been blessed with a sound financial operation for its 58 years of serving the community. That’s because the school strives to be a careful, conscientious steward of the resources necessary to manage the school operation. Once again, LCS ended its fiscal year in the black and was able to place approximately $300,000 in its cash reserve fund for future opportunities. The modest tuition increase for 2011-12, in light of the comprehensive program, continued to allow LCS to provide great value to school families.

The firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP conducts an annual independent audit of the LCS financial statements. The complete auditors’ report is available for review in the school office.
HEARTFELT GENEROSITY PROVIDES UNPRECEDEDENTED BLESSINGS

Operating an excellent Christian school is expensive. The ongoing needs of LCS will always exceed the operational revenue of the school—and especially with a school that maintains a moderate tuition year after year. The school counts on the stewardship of ministry partners, those who stand beside and behind LCS with faithful support. The following information reflects their heartfelt generosity:

2011-12 GIVING
Total Amount Given/Pledged: $2,828,894 • Total Number of Gifts: 1352

Given/Pledged By Constituency:

- Grandparent: $1,166,738 (111 Gifts)
- Alumni Parent: $743,610 (438 Gifts)
- Alumni: $51,649 (139 Gifts)
- School Parent: $112,840 (324 Gifts)
- Other: $754,057 (340 Gifts)

Given/Pledged By Funds:

- Campaign Giving: $2,328,887 (622 Gifts)
- Financial Aid: $351,000 (410 Gifts)
- Families in Crisis: $13,335 (25 Gifts)
- General Fund: $88,082 (55 Gifts)
- Other: $47,590 (240 Gifts)

Campaign Updates:

LCS features the finest educational facilities in all of West Central Florida. The campus has recently been transformed due to the generosity of ministry partners who have stepped up to provide $23 Million of campus resources for the children. The following reports reflect the continued progress in the three capital campaigns during the 2011-12 year:

Deliver the Dream
Campaign Goal: $18,300,000
Commitments as of 7/1/2011: $14,371,041
Commitments as of 6/30/2012: $16,531,249

Viking Stadium
Campaign Goal: $2,770,000
Commitments as of 7/1/2011: $2,773,454
Commitments as of 6/30/2012: $2,775,154

Center For Early Childhood Education
Campaign Goal: $1,250,000
Commitments as of 7/1/2011: $1,246,971
Commitments as of 6/30/2012: $1,247,271
SPECIAL EVENTS
LCS is pleased to present two school-wide special events which raise funds for critical school needs and create exciting social opportunities for school family and friends.

MUSICAL HARVEST

YEAR | AMOUNT  | BENEFICIARY
--- | --- | ---
2007 | $43,348  | Viking Stadium
2008 | $45,014  | Early Childhood
2009 | $73,864  | Early Childhood
2010 | $50,292  | Financial Aid/Music
2011 | $33,404  | Financial Aid/Piano

AUCTION

YEAR | AMOUNT  | BENEFICIARY
--- | --- | ---
2011 | $48,114  | Financial Aid
2012 | $59,124  | Financial Aid

FINANCIAL AID
LCS is grateful for ministry partners who faithfully support the school’s Financial Aid Fund. The need for tuition assistance is at an all-time high.

YEAR | AMOUNT  | BENEFITED
--- | --- | ---
2009-10 | $71,951  | 147 Total Students
2010-11 | $275,255  | 178 Total Students
2011-12 | $279,064  | 147 Total Students
2012-13 | $350,499  | 167 Total Students

HOW TO GIVE TO LCS

Good financial planning honors God, may help you avoid unnecessary taxes and may enable you to make a larger gift. As you prioritize your stewardship plans, we share these ideas to help you identify the most effective ways to invest as a financial partner with Lakeland Christian School.

Cash Gifts and Pledges
This represents the most direct method for making a contribution. You may provide a single gift or make a pledge. Multi-year pledges offer the opportunity to maximize your support. Online giving is also available.

Appreciated Assets
A gift of appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year will generate a tax deduction based upon the fair market value.

Tangible Personal Property
If you make a gift of a boat, automobile or other tangible personal property, you will enjoy certain tax advantages.

Gifts in Kind
The possibilities for giving “in-kind” are limitless. LCS uses and needs many goods and services, especially those related to the building campaign.

Matching Gifts
Many corporations offer matching gift programs for current or retired employees. For more information, contact your company’s personnel office.

Planned Gifts
Consult with your attorney and other financial advisors to provide for LCS through your estate and tax planning. These charitable vehicles allow you to maximize your giving and/or minimize the impact on your estate. A planned gift is made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor’s overall estate/tax planning.

For more information, contact:
Steve Wilson, CCnL, Director of Advancement  |  Lakeland Christian School
1111 Forest Park Street  |  Lakeland, Florida 33803
863-688-2771  |  swilson@lcsonline.org
Lakeland Christian School expresses heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals, businesses and organizations who have financially supported the school this year.

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Dr. Tom Abramson
Dr. and Mrs. Ruben Adriano
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Albritton
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aldridge
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