
Ambassador

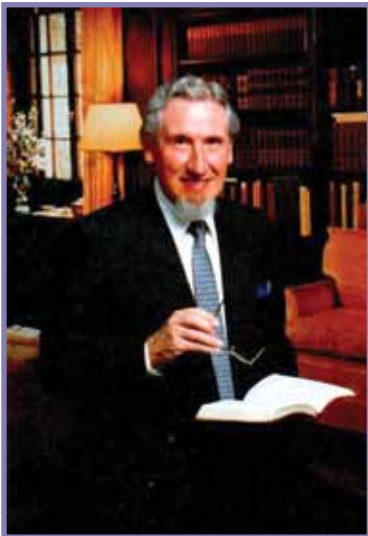
MILESTONES

The 30th anniversary commemorative publication of Bethesda Christian School



2010

Welcome



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Bethesda Christian School is a testimony to the extravagant grace of God.

Many years ago a pastor, who at that time was greatly disappointed with the quality of so-called “Christian education,” prayed for wisdom as to what he might do to correct the problem. The Lord gave him a burden and a mandate to start a school; one which would challenge John Dewey’s “pedagogic creed” with its agenda of making the school “primarily a social institution—in order to position each student in the projected social/economic hierarchy.”

The school would need to have academic excellence; it had to be Christo-centric and theonomic. It would also need to have a prophetic thrust to enable the students to function effectively with a biblical world view.

Thankfully, the church board, cautiously at first but with increasing enthusiasm, “caught” the burden and allowed it to become their vision. The board, with the help of a small group of members, engaged in the task of implementing the vision.

After the failure of several attempts to implement a grandiose plan—and with the frustration, the call to bury the vision—the church recommenced the vision with a day care though kindergarten program. Many of the parents whose children were graduating from kindergarten wanted to continue with us. So we introduced grade 1. The first teacher was Becky Landreth. Janet Betsill came, developed a curriculum, and successfully led the school to grade 6.

When Janet retired, she handed the baton to Vicki Vaughn, and the rest is embedded in history. BCS has achieved the standard of academic excellence; it remains Christo-centric and theonomic; and it most certainly enables student of have a prophetic and biblical world view.

Congratulations Madam Principal, you and your team have left—and are leaving—your imprint on many lives: students who, in turn, will leave their thumbprint on American, and perhaps, the international community.

Blessings; I pray that Philippians 1:6 will be actualized in Bethesda Christian School.

Des Evans, Senior Pastor

Bethesda Community Church



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It has been said, “Don’t look back except to recount the blessing of the Lord.”

As we pause and look retrospectively to consider a few of the milestones in the journey of Bethesda Christian School, we acknowledge the graciousness and blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ on His ministry and His mission field called Bethesda Christian School.

We are thankful for a pastor who was burdened that children and young people have the opportunity to be well educated from a biblical world view, and for a church board that caught the same vision and supported the initiative. For thirty years from Monday through Friday, nine months of the year, classrooms have been filled with hundreds of young people who were learning His Word, His wonders, and His ways.

To the families who have entrusted their precious gifts to us, especially in the formative years of our elementary, middle, and senior schools: we are thankful. Your loyalty and confidence in the mission of BCS encouraged us to keep pressing on.

To the faculty and staff who have guided students to a better understanding of wisdom, knowledge, and a biblical world view, through the many subjects taught: may your needs be met and your heart be filled with the gratification and the realization of the significance of your life’s work. Young lives have been touched and changed for the better because of your dedication and efforts. To God be the glory.

And to our students of yesterday, today, and tomorrow: never, never, never give up on pursuing the purpose that God has prepared for you. In the words of Mother Teresa, “God does not call us to be successful. He calls us to be faithful.” Be faithful with the gifts He has given you, and then watch how He can use you for His Kingdom.

From a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving,

Vicki Vaughn, Principal

Bethesda Christian School

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Cover photo: Katherine Hollingsworth and other cast members celebrate Joseph receiving his coat of many colors in the BCS musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2010).



Bethesda's 2007 TAPPS 3A State Boys Basketball Champions



Senior members of Concert Band ham it up with band director Susan Coad and her husband Daryl at the 2007 Spring Concert.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

Bethesda Christian School's 30th anniversary celebration



About guest music artist

KARI JOBE

Kari Jobe grew up knowing God was drawing her toward worship. "I remember hearing a worship song that applied perfectly to a family that I knew, and I knew that I wanted to write songs like that, for people who are hurting, songs that people make their own prayer to the Lord when they can't find words of their own."

A featured worship leader on Gateway Worship projects, *Living for You* and *Wake Up the World*, Kari released her self-titled debut album through Gateway Create Publishing and Integrity Music on February 10, 2009. Produced by Ed Cash, the album contains a collection of worship pop/folk songs written by Kari Jobe as well as co-writes with worship leaders/songwriters Chris Tomlin, Paul Baloche, Mia Fieldes, Ed Cash and Klaus Kuehn.

Leading worship at Gateway and around the country, Kari's focus for the work of ministry always comes back to people. As she says, "I am moved by people's lives and stories, and I am amazed by who God is and who He says that we are. Music becomes a way to minister to people in times of trouble, to lead them to the feet of Jesus, who can bring peace, life, hope and healing."



About guest visual artist

BRAD BALL

Brad Ball has been an artist his whole life, and it shows. As a child, Brad colored and drew like most kids but during his junior high and high school years he was part of a select group of art students. After high school, Brad attended Texas Wesleyan University and received a Bachelor of Arts in painting and drawing.

Most of his works are religious-themed, and many still grace the walls of his home. His style is best described as realism with a touch of the impressionist but his on stage style can vary depending on the service. Since each service or event can be different, Brad concepts imagery to work with each individual situation. He considers every piece a unique expression of worship.

Brad was a member of Bethesda's very first class of first graders and attended the school through fourth grade. He is honored to be a part of the 30th Anniversary Celebration for a school that holds fond memories for him and played a significant role in the foundation of his life!

Did You Know...

Kari Jobe attended BCS during her upper elementary and middle school grades in the early to mid-1990s.

a vision ENLARGED

The original plan of Bethesda Community Church's leaders was to establish a K-6 Christian elementary school with a strong academic program. But God had more in mind than what they initially realized.

The seed that eventually became Bethesda Christian School was planted in 1976, shortly after Bethesda Community Church's senior pastor—Des Evans—moved to Fort Worth. After he shared with other church leaders what the Lord was speaking to his heart, they caught Pastor Des' vision and began plans for the new school.

“Our goal, from the very beginning, was to provide an atmosphere that is Christian in concept and character ... and to provide the quality of instruction that would equip and enable our students to be comfortable as they transition to the most demanding of college disciplines,” Pastor Des recalled.

The strategy developed by the church leadership was for incremental and steady growth by adding one grade level at a time. The church board's original plan was only for an elementary school, one that would encompass kindergarten through the sixth grade.

In the fall of 1980, a kindergarten class taught by Becky Landreth was added to the church's already-existing preschool program. One year later, a first grade class was added. The fifteen students which comprised the kindergarten and first grades that year formed Bethesda Elementary School. Janet Betsill served as the first grade teacher—and the founding principal—of the young school. By the 1983-1984 school year, Bethesda had expanded to the third grade, with the second and third grades as a combined class, the only school year in which a combination class was held.

CHURCH'S FAMILY LIFE CENTER ADDITION BENEFITS SCHOOL.

In 1984, Bethesda Community Church began construction of a new addition known as The Family Life Center. The expansion was a two-story building that included the gym, the Living Room, downstairs offices, and the downstairs classrooms located across the hall from the current school administrative offices.

“At this point, the gym/living room addition was not complete, and the entire school was down the hallway by the church office,” stated current BCS school board member, former BES student, and current BCS parent Roger Blalock.

Part of the second story—the area that currently comprises the



Bethesda's first graduates, the Class of 2000, celebrate with a traditional cap toss.

third grade classrooms, the art room, and the elementary music room—was completed by the 1985-1986 term, when part of the second floor was finished out.

BETHESDA EARNS ACCREDITATION, ADDS MIDDLE SCHOOL.

With the addition of the sixth grade in the fall of 1986, Bethesda Elementary School became a K-6 school, enabling it to apply for accreditation with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI).

For the next two years, the BES family worked diligently to prepare the school for its ACSI accreditation review. Although all Bethesda teachers were state certified, additional teacher training—in Bible and in the Christian philosophy of education—was necessary in meeting ACSI accreditation requirements. The Parent Teacher Fellowship donated \$14,000 for the creation of a library (an accreditation requirement), as well as \$4,200 toward the purchase of a new wooden playground. The hard work paid off, as ACSI notified Bethesda in 1988 that it had been granted accreditation.

Once BES had added the sixth grade, many parents began to ask whether the school would expand to include a junior high and high school. In 1986, a special committee appointed by the church board concluded that it was “neither the time nor the season” for the school's expansion. By the spring of 1988, however, the church board believed that the middle school's time had come and released the school to make plans for the addition of two more grades. In the fall of 1988, a seventh grade class was added to the burgeoning school, followed



A team of eight Bethesda students received the Best Mission award during a March 1991 camp at the U.S. Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. The BCS group consisted of John Roberts, Micah Joyner, J. Lee Cummings, Shaun Rhode, Aaron Hall, Brad Vaughn, Matt Brock and Jody Null. Bethesda provided the opportunity to participate in the camp as part of LAMP, an enrichment program formerly offered by the school for gifted students.

Learning About My Purpose

Twice a week during the mid-1980s through the early 1990s, a small group of students met for the LAMP (Learning About My Purpose) program. Equivalent to the gifted and talented programs found in public schools today, LAMP allowed students to explore not-so-traditional curriculum, including the UPC barcode system, the meaning of names and numbers, temperament traits and the space program.

"At the end of the first year," said Roger Blalock, a member of the first LAMP class, "we were each given 150 popsicle sticks and instructed to build a bridge using particular specifications. The bridges were tested across two desks in the gym in front of a large group of students. The goal was to find the design that could hold the most weight."

The following year, the bridge contest was bigger and better. In fact, LAMP students brought their bridges to the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Arlington, where a special machine was used to test the bridges without breaking them.

In 1991, Mrs. Vaughn accompanied a group of LAMP students to a camp held at the U.S. Space Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. A female counselor at the academy approached Mrs. Vaughn with tears in her eyes and said, "There's something different about your students!"

The Bethesda student team, made up of highly energetic middle school age boys, won a week-long competition and received the Best Mission award, the highest award given to Space Academy teams. To win the award, students had to display exceptional team work, problem solving, communication skills, self-confidence and character. Mrs. Vaughn believed that their character set them apart from the other teams.

A VISION ENLARGED (continued)

by an eighth grade in 1989-1990.

The addition of the middle school necessitated a new name to reflect the school's expanded vision. Bethesda Elementary School became Bethesda Christian School with the addition of the seventh grade. But the new name wasn't the only change in 1988. Vicki Vaughn received the principal's baton from Mrs. Betsill, who resigned after the birth of her first child. Mrs. Vaughn had previously served BES for three years as a part-time teacher for the school's then-existing gifted program, as well as for two years as one of its vice principals.

As BCS completed its first decade of existence during the 1989-1990 school year, its enrollment stood at 241 students, with the day-to-day operations of the school served by a faculty and staff of 31. By this time, all the classrooms in the Family Life Center—along with three additional classrooms in the original portion of the church building—were filled.

BCS conducted its first eighth grade graduation in the spring of 1990 with a graduating class of ten students. That same year, ACSI extended Bethesda's accreditation to include the middle school program.

By 1994, the school had outgrown the existing facility once again. Bethesda Community Church began another two-story, 20,000 square foot expansion that included a cafeteria, youth hall, restrooms, and three downstairs elementary classrooms. BCS contributed \$40,000 to finish out the downstairs classrooms. The second floor was left as an empty shell. The church gave BCS the opportunity to complete the second floor as needed and as funds became available. In 1995, the wooden playground was removed, replaced by a new \$12,000 set that was installed by volunteers.

THE LETTER THAT BIRTHED THE SENIOR SCHOOL.

For several years, a small group of people believed that Bethesda should add a high school. The church leadership was wary of such an undertaking due to the high operating costs involved. After much prayer, the church board decided in 1993 that it was not the time, nor the season to consider the proposed addition of a high school.

For some who had believed that the expansion would come, the board's decision meant death to a vision. One school administrator prayed, "Lord, if it is YOUR will that Bethesda Church add a high school, send forth a messenger to Des Evans and the leadership of the church." The administrator placed the vision of the high school at the foot of the cross and whispered, "If it is to be, YOU will have to resurrect it."

In August of the same year, the church received an unexpected fax from Ireland. One of the church's members, Pat Oldridge, lived about five months of the year in Texas and spent the rest of the year in Ireland, her native country. Pat asked a question via

AP and concurrent enrollment courses added to senior school

The first Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered to BCS juniors and seniors—Chemistry and Calculus—were added to the schedule in 2001. Over the next few years, BCS added U.S. History, Literature and Composition, Language and Composition, Biology and Physics to its AP offerings.

Although the administration desired to offer dual credit courses to Bethesda's upperclassmen, for many years it did not do so because of reservations about Bethesda's inability to control their academic and worldview content and quality.

BCS initiated a conversation with John Brown University in 2009 to discuss the possibility of establishing a dual credit program. Bethesda administrators were interested in partnering with JBU since both schools share the same spiritual priorities for their students. JBU's strong academic reputation sealed the deal. Officials from both schools reached an agreement that satisfied both parties: John Brown's curriculum would be used for the dual credit courses offered at BCS; but the classes would be taught by Bethesda's faculty, who would be retained by JBU as adjunct professors. Officially, the BCS instructors' adjunct status changes the designation of the courses from "dual credit" to "concurrent enrollment." But the end result—earning college credit while a student at BCS—is the same.

In the fall of 2010, Bethesda decided to offer JBU's U.S. History course and College Algebra. JBU hired BCS vice principal and Math department head, Freda Chadwick, and History department head James Parish to teach the classes.

Did You Know...

Bethesda's Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF), established in the mid-1980s, was the predecessor to today's PmD. Calling for "a new degree of involvement," the organization changed its name during the 1999-2000 school year. Although PmD is commonly regarded as an acronym for "Parents Making a Difference," the group's bylaws list its official name as "Parents Making *the* Difference."



A classroom is in the process of being finished out in 1997.

the fax: "Does there seem to be a move to bring a senior school to Bethesda yet, so kids can go straight into college from there?" A month later, she boldly stated, "Two years ago I heard from the Lord that Bethesda must have a senior school ... It is His will, and the money will come."

A few months later, the 700 Club donated computer carrels for Bethesda's future technology labs and Motorola Corporation donated science lab benches.

The Lord continued to speak to other people about a future high school for Bethesda. A BCS grandmother and the husband of a former BCS teacher were giving monthly to a high school fund ... even though Bethesda had no plan to add a high school. Vicki Vaughn had a dream that she had another baby. The labor was easy, and the delivery swift. When she shared the dream with her husband, Rick, he responded, "That's the high school. When it is time, it will come easy."

In April 1995, Pastor Des told the church board that he had been contacted once again by Pat Oldridge—this time, through a strongly worded letter, written in a parental, prophetic manner. Mrs. Oldridge stated that Bethesda must make the addition of a "senior school" (the Irish equivalent of a high school) a priority. The church had a preschool/daycare, an elementary school and a middle school. The time had come, she said, to finish the task by adding a senior school.

The board recognized that the Holy Spirit was speaking to them through this godly woman. By the end of 1995, a plan for a high school had been developed and approved by the church board. As it had previously done with the elementary and middle schools, the high school would begin its first year with a single grade—the freshman class—and add one additional grade each year.

In honor of God's faithful Irish servant, Bethesda decided to call its new addition to BCS a "senior school." Pat Oldridge went home to be with the Lord in December of 2009.

THE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED SENIOR SCHOOL OPENS.

In the fall of 1996, a class of ten freshman—dubbed “the Trailblazers”—became BCS’ first senior school students. In preparation for their arrival, the school began the work of fundraising and construction to finish out the second floor shell that the church had built in 1994. The estimated cost to finish the project was \$340,000, which the school planned to complete without incurring debt.

Six classrooms were finished in time for the fall term. Over the next three years, a handful of volunteers known as “The Faithful Few” completed the construction. The work of the volunteers saved the school \$79,000 in labor costs and enabled the project to be completed at a cost of \$238,000. The generous financial support of BCS families and friends enabled the school to complete the project debt-free.

In May of 2000, the Trailblazers walked across the sanctuary stage at Bethesda’s first senior school commencement celebration. The nine-member Class of 2000, true to its Trailblazer nickname, gave BCS its first National Merit Scholar (Class President Ian Campbell) and first National Merit Commended Awardee (Valedictorian Sarah Vitek). ACSI and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) approved the accreditation of the senior school, enabling the Class of 2000 to graduate from an accredited high school program.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES.

Pastor Des Evans’ vision for a thoroughly Christian school with a quality academic program has been the guiding force behind the school’s development.

Classes at Bethesda Christian School today typically score in the top ten percent of the nation on standardized tests, and the mean average of College Board SAT scores of BCS students typically runs 300–400 points above the Texas and National mean scores. The number of ACSI and TAPPS academic awards won by Bethesda students over the years of the school’s history are too numerous to count.

Among the 247 students who have received high school diplomas from BCS, the number of graduates recognized by National Merit and College Board for their academic achievement is notable: 8 National Merit Scholars; 1 National Merit Semi-Finalist; 22 National Merit Commended Students; 1 National Merit National Achievement Semifinalist; and 9 College Board National Hispanic Scholars.

But in spite of Bethesda’s strong emphasis on academics, the highest priority of the school has always been to foster the student’s relationship with Christ and the emulation of His character. *Esse Jesui Similis—To Be Like Jesus*—is the driving force behind all that Bethesda is and does.

In 1998, the school chose Luke 2:52 as the scripture that encompasses the model for Bethesda students to follow: “And Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and with man.” As BCS celebrates its 30th anniversary, it is its Christian heritage that serves as the foundation for its future.

ADMINISTRATOR CHOSEN *as a 2010 National Distinguished Principal*

Vicki Vaughn was nominated by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and selected by the National Association of Elementary School Principals as a 2010 National Distinguished Principal. The award recognizes elementary and middle school principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement and character of the students, families, and staff in their learning community. Mrs. Vaughn is one of two Texas principals and one of six private school principals selected nationally.

Along with 61 other principals also receiving the award this year, Mrs. Vaughn traveled to

Washington, D.C., for a two-day event on Oct. 14 and 15 that honored their accomplishments. The event included a reception at the U.S. Department of State, opportunities to discuss issues facing education today, and a black-tie awards banquet.

It is especially fitting that Mrs. Vaughn—who has served as Bethesda’s principal for most of its history—be recognized for her accomplishments in the same year that BCS celebrates its 30th anniversary. The Bethesda family extends its congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to this godly woman, under whose leadership BCS has developed into the school that it is today.

Gym renovation requires much manpower

At the beginning of the gym renovation in 1999-2000, hours were spent attempting to pull up the carpet that covered the floor—with little result. Finally, a tractor with a box blade entered the gym. The tractor made a way when there seemed to be no way... and soon the carpet was gone. As funds came in, more progress was made.

About halfway through the project, the funds stopped flowing. A few weeks later, a BCS mom asked, "How much more do you need to finish that gym project?" In a couple of days, the mom returned with a check for \$35,000, just enough to get the job done. By the end of the project, the carpet was gone, walls renovated, a new sound system added, and the project was completely funded by the \$65,000 generously given by the BCS families and friends. Over 2,000 volunteer hours were invested in this labor intensive project.



Volunteers help strip the gym floor during its 1999-2000 renovation.

A summary of national academic recognition given to BCS graduates



National Merit Commended students Robyn Coad and Tanner Hearne, along with National Achievement Semi-finalist Jeffery Hampton, are recognized for their accomplishments during the Class of 2008 graduation ceremony. Valedictorian Keith Ballard was also a National Merit Commended student.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Scholars

2000	Ian Campbell	2005	Natalie Lozano
2005	Leslie McCalister, Meredith Simons	2006	Joshua Coad, Brennan Gardner
2006	Patrick Wilcox	2007	Jason Carley, Spenser Davis, Lauren Mathers, Andrew Pham, Brian Schoelles
2007	Jaimie Grotjan, David Whisenhunt	2008	Keith Ballard, Robyn Coad, Tanner Hearne
2009	Cassi Toney	2009	Meagan Carley, Kayla Davidson, Sarah Ingraham, Matthew Patrick
2010	Megan Deaton	2010	Nick Amin, Madison McClure

Semifinalist

2003 Philip Wilcox

Commended

2000	Sarah Vitek
2003	David Barnett
2004	Joshua Berman, Nathan Brower, Julie Schoelles

NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Semifinalist

2008 Jeffery Hampton

COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

2001	Isaac DeLeon	2008	John Lozano
2002	Sergio San Martin	2009	Meagan Carley
2005	Natalie Lozano	2010	MaryLauren Guess, Giles Ludwig
2006	Ali Villanueva		
2007	Jason Carley		

Did You Know...

Pat Oldridge said that the money would come for BCS to add the senior school. Since 1996, when we began the senior school, BCS families and friends have invested \$807,504.00 toward facilities and field expansion/renovations and vehicles. During this time, volunteers saved the school an estimated \$161,230.00 for these projects. (Many smaller projects have not been recorded.)

HONORABLE CHARACTER

BCS original leaves its imprint on other schools

Over the years, the school has received compliments repeatedly from outsiders about the character and conduct of Bethesda students. One example was an email sent to her by the mother of a high school basketball player whose team had played in a tournament hosted by BCS.

“I wanted to commend you on the tournament you hosted,” the woman wrote. “Obviously, ethics and values are important to your campus. When I commented to my son about this, he said that tournament exhibited the best sportsmanship he had seen in three years of playing high school basketball.”

Of Bethesda’s three core values—character, academics and service—character has always served as the hub from which the others extend.

One of the primary tools used by Bethesda elementary teachers to help develop the character of their students is a homegrown classroom management system. In the late 1980s, the conduct card then used by the school underwent a transformation that led to the development of what is now known as the Honorable Character™ Classroom Management System.

When Mrs. Vaughn became Bethesda’s principal in 1988, one of her first initiatives was to recast the school’s classroom management practices and procedures. A new model—one that purposely emphasized identifying and recognizing students for their honorable character qualities—became the school’s standard.

Although it has undergone honing over time, the Honorable Character™ system continues to be used at Bethesda and has become a hallmark of the school. For many years, the administration had received requests from former BCS teachers who sought permission to use the system at their new schools. During accreditation visits, team members saw Bethesda’s classroom management system in action, and they often asked how they could get the program into their own schools. ACSI designated the BCS classroom management system as an Exemplary School Program, generating even greater interest from administrators and teachers at other schools across the nation.

Eventually, the administration realized that Bethesda had the opportunity to impact the lives of students and teachers who would never set foot within its walls. A team of BCS elementary teachers fine-tuned the classroom management system so that it could be made available to other schools. With the blessing of Bethesda’s school board, a non-profit organization—Honorable

Character, Inc.—was created under the school’s corporate umbrella of Bethesda, Inc. Profits made from sales of the classroom management system will eventually fund the teacher endowment fund for the benefit of Bethesda educators.

Along with the elementary classroom system, HC developed a simplified version of Honorable Character™ for preschools, as well as one designed for use by parents in the home.

HONORABLE CHARACTER GOES TO THE UKRAINE.

In 2006, Honorable Character went into the nation of Ukraine at the request of the Christian ministry Good News International. The administration of the Ukrainian president at that time, Viktor Yushchenko, wanted to incorporate Christian ethics into schools and asked for Good News’ assistance. After learning about the Honorable Character program, Good News sought HC’s help. Honorable Character™ donated the rights to Good News to publish and distribute the program in Ukraine and in Russia. Bethesda teachers Mrs. Nancy Berman and Mrs. Lorie Shelley flew to Donetsk, Ukraine, to provide teacher training in the program.

HC SPREADS ITS WINGS AND DEVELOPS PUBLIC SCHOOL VERSION.

The HC system tied the development of strong character with godly qualities as they are described in the scriptures. The use of Bible verses was a perfect fit for Christian schools, but also made it virtually impossible for public school educators to implement the system in their classrooms.

The administration theorized that the HC™ program not only built character within the students, but it was part of the reason that Bethesda students consistently achieved at such a remarkable academic level. Could the reinforcing attentiveness, diligence and responsibility within the classroom increase the productivity of the students? The company believed it was time for HC™ to make a difference in our culture, including the independent public school districts.

In 2007, Honorable Character™ achieved two new milestones: it became independent from Bethesda, Inc., and it developed a public school version of its system.

HC™ asked a local school in the Keller school district, Lone Star Elementary, to participate in a pilot program during the 2008-2009 school year to test the effectiveness of the new public school classroom management system. Within a few months of using the program, Lone Star parents and teachers reported a

positive difference in their students' character. At the end of the school year, Lone Star principal Steve Hurst informed Honorable Character that his school's rating with the Texas Education Agency improved from Recognized to Exemplary, the number of disciplinary referrals decreased, and student achievement in standardized testing improved in every subject at every grade level. Lone Star continued the trend in its second year with HC™. Hurst attributes much of his school's improvement to its implementation of the Honorable Character™ system.

"This is the first program I've ever seen that really integrates character building into students' lives. I believe that it is a true paradigm shift from the conventional perspectives on character and behavior," he stated.

Interest in the Honorable Character™ system has increased in 2010. The program is now in one or more classrooms in 213 schools across the nation. Overall, HC™ is now in 40 states as well as in 7 nations overseas.



Today's Christian school HC™ wall chart in the "Artistic" style



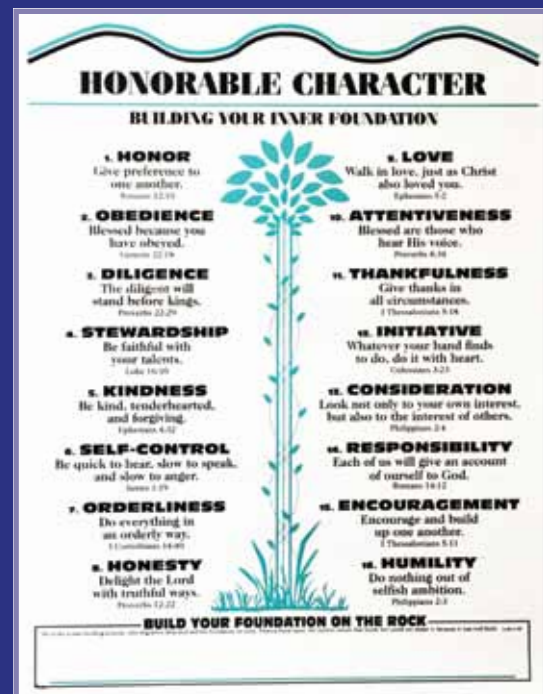
The current "Primary" style HC™ wall chart used in public schools

The Honorable Character™ Poster Story

The original Honorable Character poster, created by former BCS parent Jeannie Cain, hung in Bethesda's classrooms from 1988 until 2003. Teachers either purchased or made their own recording charts.

When the decision was made to market Honorable Character to other Christian schools, BCS elementary teachers worked with the administrator to streamline the wall chart. Once that revision had been completed, BCS hired graphic artist Karl Giere in 2003 to redesign the chart. Originally, the administration planned to print only 100 posters; but at Mr. Giere's recommendation, BCS printed 1,000 to make the price more cost effective, a decision that proved to be a wise one. During this revision stage, the HC team began completing the required paperwork to become a separate 501C-3 non-profit organization.

In 2007, when HC™ decided to print posters and charts for its new public school version, it ordered 1,000 of each. But instead of printing 1,000 of each product, the printer mistakenly printed 10,000 recording charts and 10,000 character posters. Honorable Character paid only slightly more than it would have for the originally planned order. The HC™ team viewed this error as God's provision for launching the HC™ program into the public schools.



Bethesda's original HC™ poster

FINE ARTS PROGRAM

taps creative potential within students



Babette (Tori Marroquin) and Lumiere (Andrew Pham) share a flirtatious moment during the 2006 musical, *Beauty and the Beast*.

The vision for Fine Arts at BCS has always been to discover the gifts within our students and to give them a platform to flourish. Through the art, band, choir and drama programs, students have learned about the arts and themselves as they worked to hone their God-given talents.

Students have always been given the opportunity to express themselves in the visual arts starting in the elementary school and then given more formal training in middle and senior school. BCS art students have participated in numerous competitions and shows throughout the years, with many placing in the TAPPS State Art/Academic meets.

Following in the rich tradition of music at Bethesda Community Church, BCS's band and choir programs have always been an integral part of the curriculum. Starting with elementary music and progressing through the 5th Grade Beginner Band, the 6th grade Intermediate Band, the Concert Band, and Senior School choir, these programs have strived to give students foundational training and performance opportunities to express

Friends, Romans and BCS Students...

It's time to toga! That is, it's time to toga if you're a sophomore in Sylvia Faulk's world history class.

"In 1998, I started having Roman toga parties/banquets at the end of our study of the Roman Republic/Empire," explained Faulk. "The first five years I held the parties at my house; but now the



Roman soldiers Micah Tisue, Emilio Garza, Austin Powell and Justin Brann greet their Roman classmates at the 2009 World History toga party.

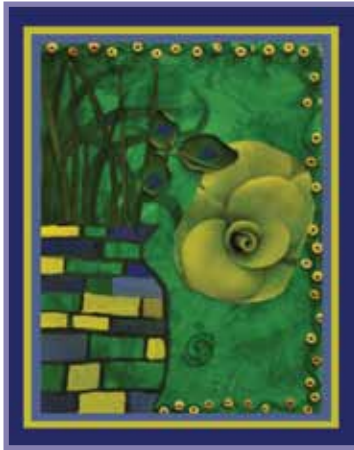
groups are so large, we have to find the tenth grade student with the largest house to host the party."

In preparation for the event, students, host parents and Mrs. Faulk don queen- or king-size sheets wrapped around the body and thrown back over the shoulder to resemble the togas worn by Roman senators. Thus, the "toga party" name.

The week prior to event, students take turns teaching the class about a variety of subjects, including Roman ships, bathhouses, aqueducts and Roman soldiers' battle strategies. Others in the class decorate the host home and cook Roman cuisine prior to the party, which features a re-enactment of Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar*, and "Zorba the Greek" dance lessons.

The toga parties have produced many memorable moments through the years. Mrs. Faulk's favorite happened just last year. "Mr. Parish showed up with a pizza at the end of the play," she said. "He had a knife hidden inside the pizza box, and at the appropriate time, he grabbed the knife and 'stabbed' Caesar in the Senate."

themselves and worship the Lord. Students have given concert performances here at home as well as at formal and informal festivals throughout the metroplex. BCS students have performed in the various All-Region bands and choirs, with a few even achieving the honor of participating in the ATSSB and TMEA All-State Bands. No small feat in the state of Texas!



This work by 2009-2010 eighth grader Whitney Singleton exemplifies the many beautiful pieces created by BCS art students over its history.

The final piece of the Fine Arts program was added in 2003 with the performance of our first musical, a “homemade” revue entitled *My Fair Fiddler from Oklahoma!* Each year since, BCS has performed a full-length Broadway musical and well as the wonderful play, *The Miracle Worker*. The productions of *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Brigadoon*, *Cinderella*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* have provided a platform for our students to grow in not just their singing, acting, and dancing talents but also in teamwork, self-confidence, and lasting friendships. These

students and their dedicated parents, without whom not one production would have made it to the stage, have given the entire Bethesda family memories that will last a lifetime!



The elementary school performs a scene from its 2001 spring musical, *Elijah*.



During the choir’s 2010 Spring Concert, MaryLauren Guess, Emily Ballard and Megan Deaton perform *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

BCS ALL-STATE BAND MEMBERS

Joy Crabaugh	ATSSB	00-01, 01-02
Chris Svochak	ATSSB	00-01,01-02
Annie Grotjan	ATSSB	02-03,03-04
Ashley Tambunga	ATSSB	03-04,04-05,05-06, 06-07
Robyn Coad	TMEA 4A	04-05,05-06,06-07



Matthew Briggs receives the appreciation of the audience and his fellow Concert Band members after the band performed one of his compositions during the Spring 2009 concert. Matthew conducted while the band performed his piece.

Did You Know...

BCS printed and distributed its own school currency, known as the Bethesda Buck, from the mid- 1990s until around 2000. Teachers awarded the Bucks to students at the end of each grading period (there were six grading periods at the time) for displaying good character. They could also be given to students “caught doing something good” at any time.

With the Bethesda Bucks they earned, students could purchase the privilege of participating in a special activity or outing, such as an afternoon picnic lunch at a local park. Bucks could also be taken away from students for infractions such as dress code violations or when they were “caught doing something bad.”

As the school’s enrollment grew, the record keeping process became a nightmare. So when computers were added to each classroom, Bucks were replaced with computer records. It’s just as well. Unfortunately, one enterprising student began printing and distributing his own counterfeit Bucks, which initiated the currency’s demise. In remembering the incident, one administrator stated, “Yes, this kept us humble. [It showed] we needed to continue to work on character!”

AMBASSADOR ATHLETICS

Ambassador athletics emphasize sportsmanship, integrity in competition

Bethesda's Athletics Department strives to compete with integrity and to represent and reflect our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in our actions—both on and off the playing field. BCS encourages winning, but understands that neither the school nor the student athletes are defined by a scoreboard. Bethesda expects its sports teams to live up to the Ambassador name, respecting teammates, coaches, officials and opponents.

Over the course of BCS history, Bethesda has fielded teams not only for the middle and senior schools, but at times, even for the elementary school as well.

The first organized athletic teams in the school's history—basketball and baseball—were offered at the middle school level during the 1989-1990 school year. By 1995, the middle school athletic program also included softball, volleyball and cross country.

When the senior school was added during the 1996-1997 school term, BCS expanded its athletic program to include middle school and senior school track and field, as well as volleyball, softball and cheerleading for senior school students. One year later, Bethesda began competing in the Texas Christian Athletic League (TCAL) as a class 1A school.

The Ambassador athletic program quickly expanded after the addition of the senior school. BCS athletes were now competing in basketball, baseball and golf. Soccer and cross country were added to the program. Bethesda began competing in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) athletics, in which it remains today.

An important development for BCS came in 1998-1999 with the formation of the Athletic Booster Club. Organized by the parents of student athletes, the Booster Club has become a major source of support—both in spirit and in funding—for Ambassador sports. Monies raised through the Booster Club's annual Athletic Auction have purchased uniforms, equipment, and other needed athletic gear over the years that it has been held.

The motto that Bethesda has embraced for its sports program encapsulates the heart of Ambassador athletics: All for Him.



TCAL's 1999-2000 2A state cheerleading champions



Bethesda's 1998-1999 TCAL 1A state baseball championship team

Did You Know...

The Ambassador was officially chosen as the BCS mascot in preparation for the 1989-1990 school year.

BCS formed its first elementary school boys and girls softball teams during the 1997-1998 school term. The following school year, the girls softball team, coached by Lennie Hillman, received the league's sportsmanship award.



The 1993 middle school volleyball team wears uniforms in the original school colors of light blue, royal and white. In the center of the photo is Heidi (Pogue) Houston, whose son Ethan is now a kindergartener at BCS.

The Greatest Victory

In 2003, a young man by the name of Emmanuel Engulu applied for admission to BCS. During his interview with the principal, he was asked why he wanted to attend the school. Emmanuel replied that he had a call on his life, and he wanted to attend a school that could help him prepare for it. He said that he heard about the character of our students and the academic rigor of school—and he wanted both.

At the end of his admissions interview, Emmanuel mentioned that he also liked to play basketball. Emmanuel was informed that many of our strongest basketball players had just graduated, and that BCS could use his help on the court. Emmanuel said, "That's good. We'll work hard, and maybe by the time we are seniors, we can go to state."

Over the next four years, a championship team was made. By 2005, the reputation of the Bethesda basketball team was gaining momentum. The boys stayed focused and practiced often. During the 2006-07 school year, Emmanuel's senior year, other schools took notice of the boys basketball team. They won district and the rest is history. The Ambassadors became the TAPPS 3A Boys State Basketball Champs. Their basketball skills had been perfected. Their attitude and character were remarkable.

Mrs. Donna Hores tells a story that exemplifies the character and quality of that TAPPS 3A Boys State Championship Team:

"The boys had just won the state basketball game. The game was close and extremely exciting.

"Moments after the game, I happened to see Jeffery Hampton, one of the BCS State Championship team members. I told him that it was a wonderful victory and a great game. He politely said, 'Thank you, but the greatest victory will be on Monday.' I asked, 'What happens on Monday?' Jeffery went on to say, 'That's when I have the opportunity to baptize Michael, the foreign exchange student whom I led to the Lord Jesus Christ.' Jeffery was just glowing from a great week that appeared to be ordained by God."



The new 2006-2007 TAPPS 3A boys state basketball champions dog pile in celebration of their victory.

BCS ATHLETIC CHAMPIONS

1998-1999 TCAL 1A State Baseball Champions

The state champs were Joseph Atherton, Brian Bennett, Mark Brady, Josh Collins, Isaac DeLeon, Matt Forney, Robert Herman, Stephen Husmann, Blake Mc Daniel, Kenneth Ruelas with Coach Craig Kidwell.

1999-2000 TCAL 2A State Cheerleading Champions

These state cheerleading champs were known for their character and their classy cheers. They were Karen Brower, Cambryn Caldwell, Joy Crabaugh, Rebecca Forney, Brittany Haney, Julie Harbin, Ashleigh Little, Gabrielle Mahler, Amy Stevens, Rachel Warren. Their coach was Shawn Thompson.

2006-2007 TAPPS 3A Boys State Basketball Champions

State champs were Calder Austin, Michael Chu, Brandon Deal, Ryan Dougherty, Emmanuel Engulu, Andrew Forney, Bryan Gardner, Thad Goodling, Jeffrey Hampton, Blake Winhold, and Coaches Delton Deal and Tim Owen.

TRACK AND FIELD STATE CHAMPIONS

Leslie Polman	3A	2002 Discus
Leslie Polman	2A	2003 Discus
Leslie Polman	2A	2003 200M
Tori Marroquin, Lauren Mathers, Leslie Polman, Shannon Crawford	2A	2004 4X100M relay
Tori Marroquin, Lauren Mathers, Leslie Polman, Rachel Moreno	2A	2005 4X200 relay
Rachel Moreno	2A	2006 400M
David Whisenhunt	2A	2006 1600M & 3200M



The 2007 Bethesda boys basketball team encourage each other during a time out at the state championship game.

TECH BYTE:

BCS LAN Parties

Before HALO, Xbox, PlayStation and even Wii, was the BCS LAN party. On Fridays after school—sometimes quite late in the evening—BCS high school boys set up the Tech Lab and another classroom to play a sanitized version of Counter-Strike.

Of course, this venture required Mrs. Vaughn's blessing and being a wise principal, she said yes—but only if the programming class agreed to modify the game. The class enthusiastically accepted this enormous challenge and systematically removed the offensive elements from the game. Then, terrorists and anti-terrorists were renamed the red and blue teams.

"The lab was always packed with at least 22 kids, plus some would bring their own computers," said BCS Technology Director Jennie Phifer. "At some point, we would order pizza. And when the custodians were ready to stop for the night, we packed up and left."

In the next few years, another gifted programming student modified Counter-Strike even further, designing the playing field to resemble the BCC/BCS campus and incorporating every minute detail.

"It was like the students were running through the halls of the school," explained Mrs. Phifer. "It was so fun."

Bows for Bucks



All dressed up but with nowhere to go, Ronnie Keen and Keith Chadwick try out the merchandise while setting up for the school's first Bow Sale.

A myriad of ways exist for raising money, and over the years, BCS has done a number of them ... including walk-a-thons, cookie dough sales (who knew those tubs would require so much storage space?), magazine sales (really, how many publications can you possibly read in a year?) and bow sales.

Bow sales? That's right, bow sales.

In October 1999, a friend of BCS, looking to rid her company's warehouse of merchandise acquired from the buyout of another manufacturer, sought out a non-profit company to whom she could donate hair bows and ribbon, rhinestones, buttons and hairclips. Fifty-one pallets worth, to be exact.

Ronnie Keen, long-time BCS volunteer and husband of Curriculum Director Judy Keen, called Mrs. Vaughn to see if BCS would be interested. After a few moments to consider the opportunity, Mrs. Vaughn said, "Sure! Let's take what we have been given and multiply this gift." When people heard of the "blessing," many were skeptical. Others simply laughed.

"The first sale was a mess," said Mr. Keen. "It took place in the atrium and school cafeteria, and we generated over \$7,000. The next sale was in the gym. We set up tables and organized the products and then put the remainder back in storage. This made it much easier for the next few sales."

Over the next four years, a team of volunteers sold a total of \$50,342 in bows and bow supplies before BCS donated the remainder to another ministry. Proceeds from bow sales assisted with costs related to the BCS expansion, gym remodel and transportation upgrades.

Along the way, BCS was able to bless a number of different individuals and organizations through the donation of bows and supplies.

"One year, we gave the Haltom City cheerleaders all the supplies they needed to make homecoming corsages," explained Mr. Keen. "I think they were going to make around 600 corsages. We also blessed the Fort Worth Teen Challenge girls with hair bows. And we gave many boxes of supplies to people who made hair bows in the home and sold them for a profit. We did all this with bows that nobody wanted."



The "Ralley Team" gets Ambassador spirit fired up (2005-2006).

SERVICE IN HIS KINGDOM

The ultimate goal of a Bethesda education

If character is the core value of Bethesda Christian School, then service is certainly its by-product. BCS believes that character development and academic preparation are ultimately designed to equip students in fulfilling God's purpose for their lives. BCS provides students with practical opportunities to shine the light of Christ to others and make a difference through giving and service, both in the local community and abroad.

The seeds for service are planted early on in the hearts of our elementary students. For years, Bethesda elementary students have participated in Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child, visiting nursing homes and "Love Month" mission projects.

Every summer since 1999, a group of BCS senior school students participate in a Six Wings-sponsored missions outreach. On the way back to school after feeding the homeless, Robert Herman asked Keith Chadwick if Six Wings could do a foreign mission project. Mr. Chadwick said he would give it some thought. Later, at a staff meeting, Pat Justice requested prayer for her husband, who had cancer. She mentioned that the doctor treating him also volunteered at an orphanage in Mexico and related that he could use some help. Mr. Chadwick took Robert's idea and the doctor's need, and then put together the first Six Wings foreign mission. Seventy-two Bethesda students, parents and staff went to Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, to do renovation work at the Ciudad Acuna orphanage.

GREEN TEAM ESTABLISHED

Like most organizations and individuals today, BCS is dedicated to protecting and preserving God's creation. For this reason, BCS class of 2009 alumna Cassi Toney founded the Green Team in 2008. The group's mission is to help reduce the school's "ecological footprint" and conserve its resources. The other original team members include Meagan Carley, Allyson Polman, Amie Morvan, Megan Deaton and Shelby Holloway.

Green team members have placed paper recycling bins in all classrooms and school offices, which they empty each Friday. One pair of male volunteers set the record recycling time of 6 minutes for the entire building, a job that usually takes an hour. In addition, signs strategically positioned by light switches remind teachers, staff and students to turn off the lights when rooms are unoccupied.

BCS families are encouraged to support the Green Team's efforts by placing paper items such as magazines, newspapers, catalogues, mail, school and office papers, phone books and cardboard boxes in the recycling bins located in the school's north parking lot. Recycling proceeds benefit BCS and help encourage environmental responsibility.



Student participants in the 2004 Ringold, Oklahoma, mission help with the framing of a building.



Taylor Smith entertains a special needs child for the 2010 Champion's Field Day. Bethesda's juniors and seniors assist the Boy Scouts of America in this outreach each spring.



Third graders Garrett Cobb and Caitlyn Shannon sweep the Cornerstone Food Bank floor during a December 2009 class service project.

Six Wings takes flight



A team of Six Wing members at work during the organization's very first service project—cleaning streets behind Home Depot and Wal-Mart on Loop 820. They mowed and picked up trash around Hillcrest Apartments. Wal-Mart donated the bags, Home Depot took the garbage.

Six Wings is a BCS student-led service organization that was birthed in the heart of Amber Walker, then a sophomore student, during the 1998-1999 school year. The organization's name refers to scripture verses found in Isaiah 6:2,8:

"Above him were seraphs, each had six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two wings they covered their feet, and with two they were flying... Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for me?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me.'"

The two wings covering the face represent reverence for the greatness of God's glory. The two wings covering the feet represent the humility, resulting from the realization of man's sinfulness. And the two flying wings represent service, the readiness to respond to God's call.

Six Wings creates opportunities for BCS students to model Christ's character while serving the school and the community. Students choose and plan service projects, cover projects with prayer, recruit volunteers, and conduct a follow-up evaluation to determine needed improvements.

In the decade since its inception, Six Wings has communicated the love of God in a variety of practical ways including cleaning community streets; hosting a janitorial staff appreciation dinner; sponsoring canned food, coat and teddy bear drives; leading National Day of Prayer activities in downtown Fort Worth; raising money for foreign and domestic missions organizations; cleaning fields; planting flowers; laying tile; painting; assisting with BCS classroom finish-outs; and feeding the homeless. The organization has also assisted Youth with a Mission in Atlanta, Special Olympics, Salvation Army Angel Tree and Operation Christmas Child.

Most recently, on October 9, the Fort Worth chapter of Teen Challenge honored Six Wings during its annual banquet. The group received a plaque with a certificate of appreciation stating that Six Wings had "consistently demonstrated hearts of servants" in the five years that it—with the assistance of Bethesda's National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society—had served at the banquet.

SPIRIT WEAR

Each year, BCS families spend hundreds of dollars on Spirit Wear – the t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies and other clothing items embellished with the BCS name and/or logo. But in the beginning, around 1995, there was only one, painstakingly crafted Spirit Wear item available.

"It was a navy blue sweatshirt with 3 inch block letters (BCS) cut from green, blue and red plaid fabric and appliquéd in red," explained BCS mom Vicki Sanderson, who handmade each sweatshirt that school year, one by one. The cheerleaders tried to help by ironing on Heat and Bond (a fabric bonding adhesive with a paper backing) and cutting out the letters.

"What the cheerleaders didn't realize was that they had to iron the adhesive to the wrong side of the fabric and trace the letters backwards. Once the letters were cut out and flipped over, the right side of the fabric would be face up and facing in the right direction after the paper was peeled off and ready to iron on the sweatshirt.

"When the sweatshirts and letters were delivered to me, I discovered all the letters had been traced and cutout wrong. There wasn't enough of the same plaid fabric to start over, so I found something close and cut the letters out myself. I'm not sure how the cheerleading coach handled it with the girls," said Mrs. Sanderson, "but I never let them know it had to be redone. They worked so hard with such a servant's heart."

That first year, Mrs. Sanderson handmade an incredible 375 BCS sweatshirts.



Mrs. Vaughn shows her school spirit during '50s Day during Spirit Week. She is wearing an early version of Bethesda's spirit wear.

— *One of our* —

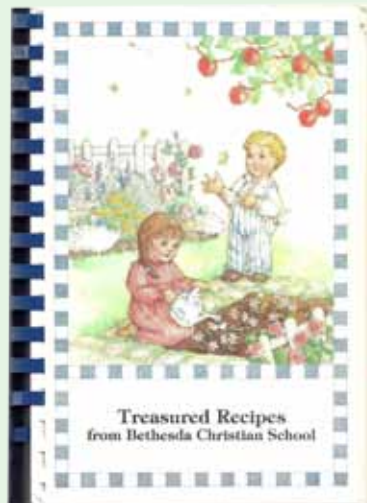
FAVORITE RECIPES

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Below is a recipe that our guest artist, Kari Jobe, submitted for the BCS cookbook.

Our guest artist, Kari Jobe, attended Bethesda Christian School during her upper elementary and middle school years. Below is a recipe that Kari submitted for the BCS cookbook. At the time, she was a sixth grader in Mrs. Ann Eudy's class.

Kari's Favorite Jello



Crust:

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. margarine
2 c. crushed pretzels
1 Tbsp. sugar

Mix well and spread in Pyrex dish.
Bake at 400 degrees for 8 minutes only.
Let cool completely. Mix 8 ounces
cream cheese, 1 cup sugar, and 1 small
Cool Whip; spread on cooled crust.
Top layer: Dissolve 1 large strawberry
Jell-O in 2 cups boiling water and add
2 cartons still frozen sliced strawberries
until melted. Pour over center layer
and refrigerate until firm.



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