

# **The Home & School Link**

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## **From the Principal**

It is always a humbling experience to begin a new year. To think that parents entrust their most precious treasures to us is awesome and scary all at the same time. After just three days of school, I am convinced that this is going to be a great year. I pray for God's blessings for each student. I pray that they will not only learn a great deal, but that they will grow in Christ-like character as we make this journey together.

As our country continues to struggle with a host of spiritual and moral issues, I pray that we will equip the next generation to be the servants God needs to have a positive impact on our culture. The fact is that no politician will be able to turn this nation around. God is the only one that can bring the needed changes, because what ails this nation is a heart problem, and God is the only One that can affect the heart. We must work together, in concert with the Holy Spirit, in order to raise up the next generation of godly leaders.

I am confident that the reason you have invested in Christian education is to "train up a child in the way he should go." Although you place a high priority on academics, you place an even higher priority on wisdom. Government schools do not concern themselves with godly wisdom. Now that all our students can take advantage of any government school academic program available like the Kokomo Area Career Center, you can have the best of both worlds. Furthermore, with the additional opportunities available through KASH (Kokomo Area Schools at Home); your students can participate in a host of extra-curricular activities as well. Please take advantage of all the opportunities that are available in order to give your children a well-rounded education.

## **In the Spotlight** – Individualization

ACE has done considerable research on the topic of how children learn, and the results, along with other educational surveys, indicate that children:

- Have varying IQs and learn at different rates.

- Must learn specific developmental skills.
- Process information differently at different developmental levels.
- Learn best through mastery with repetition, then review.
- Vary in their abilities to learn through visual, auditory, and kinesthetic/tactile stimuli.

Let's take a look at how ACE has addressed these issues.

Since children have different IQs and learn at different rates, testing to determine each child's knowledge and performance level is critical. That is why we test all new students in the area of math, grammar, reading, and spelling using ACE's diagnostic tests. We will also test students in the spring in order to evaluate the progress that has been made throughout the year. Kindergarten students will be tested for skills that are prerequisite to the learning-to-read process which include sequencing, recognition of colors and shapes, relationships, coordination, and the ability to process information on a subconscious level while processing other information on a conscious level.

Children process information differently in varying stages of physical development. Nearly all children from preschool to puberty are able to answer the "who, what, when, and where" questions. At puberty, brain chemistry changes, and most children are able to answer "how and why" questions. ACE's core curriculum below seventh level concentrates its presentation on the "who, what, when and where" questions, but "how and why" questions are heavily addressed at and above seventh level. These critical skills of deductive reasoning and logical thinking are necessary for your child's college preparation as well as for his preparation for life.

Most children need to have a concept repeated five to seven times for mastery. Therefore, vocabulary words are introduced, repeated, and practiced before tested. Academic concepts are presented in sequence and mastered with repetition, then review follows in a spiral approach. Progress is controlled, and your child moves on only after he has demonstrated understanding and mastery of the material.

Some children like to learn best visually. Some like to learn best auditorily. Others like to learn best by hands-on experience (kinesthetic). Although children tend to want to learn through one medium, their dominant one, they should be encouraged to gain understanding of academic material in different ways. You will notice that your child's PACEs incorporate color, pictures, diagrams, and other enhancements to stimulate learning. He also has the opportunity for individual attention by reading aloud or discussing concepts with the supervisor or

you to assure mastery. The high technology available through ACE computer software is especially appealing and beneficial to the “hands-on” learner.

Children learn on an individual basis, and ACE meets your child’s specific educational needs. To God be the glory – great things He has done and is doing for our children.

### **Extra-curricular Opportunities**

We strongly recommend that every family join KASH. For only \$25 a year, you will be able to take advantage of a host of opportunities for the whole family that will be provided by Christian leaders. Simply go to their website ([kashnews.org](http://kashnews.org)) and register online.

They have sports teams for boys (soccer and basketball) and volleyball for girls, along with a wide variety of social and educational activities. They also have a number of opportunities for parents, including seminars and group meetings designed for fellowship and encouragement.

### **College Bound**

Make sure you encourage your high school students to take advantage of the opportunities to prepare for college entrance exams. They have already been given information regarding the PSAT, SAT, and ACT testing by The College Board. There is a lot of preparation that is needed to ensure your students get the highest scores they are capable of achieving. Not only are there the paper practice tests that have been issued, there are also a lot of online helps available. They need to begin preparing now!

### **Coming Up**

- Check the News page on the website for KASH soccer and volleyball home games
- Sept. 1 – Labor Day (No School)
- Sept. 11 – Picture Day (beginning at 8:15 am, homeschoolers welcome)
- Sept. 19 – Fall Educator’s Convention (No School)