

Spotlight on North County Christian School

by Mark Taylor, College/University Representative

Part One – The History

North County Christian School (NCCS) is one of the Church of the Nazarene's longest-tenured school ministries. It is a ministry of Ferguson Church of the Nazarene in Ferguson, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. The school facility is found in Florissant, Missouri, about a mile and a half from the church. The school is currently ministering to about 300 students, Pre-K through 12th grade. NCCS is accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International.



NCCS, originally known as North County Day School, was started in 1962 by Ferguson Church of the Nazarene and its pastor, Rev. Udell G. Moss. At the time, the North County community was growing, and the public schools were overflowing with five-year-old children. The church agreed to start a kindergarten in the basement of their building. They started with one teacher, twelve students, and two automobiles used as buses.

In 1966 the church and school moved to 1309 N. Elizabeth in Ferguson, Missouri, where they were able to add a daycare and expand the

elementary through third grade. All remaining grades were added during the following nine years, resulting in the first graduating class of four students in 1977. A new building was added in 1985 to provide more classroom space and a much-needed gymnasium. In 1997, growth demanded additional educational space. An adjacent three acres and a house were purchased. The house was renovated into administrative offices and a library, and four modular classrooms were added. It was during this time that NCCS had an enrollment of nearly 600 students.

Even with the additional classrooms, NCCS soon occupied every available space. After several months of seeking God's direction and plan, on July 8, 2004, the school purchased a recently vacated school campus in Florissant, Missouri, about a mile and a half from its current campus. NCCS was able to purchase the adjoining soccer field and parking lot in 2007.



The beautiful campus of NCCS sets on Dunn Road just north of I 270 between N Florissant and Graham/Hanley. The campus includes three classroom buildings, cafeteria, chapel, full size gymnasium, Crusader Soccer Stadium, two athletic fields, activities center and administration building.

This 14-acre campus will allow the school to grow to almost 1,000 students. NCCS looks forward to what God has ahead as it completes 57 years in ministry to the North County community.

Part Two – The Ministry

The awesome part of North County Christian is the Christ-centered focus. The mission of NCCS is to work in partnership with the family and the church to provide an excellent education in biblical truth and to nurture students as they:

Embrace a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,
Discover their God-given gifts,
Seek His plan for their life, and
Serve Him with their mind, body, and spirit.

The Vision: Our students will acquire wisdom, knowledge, and a biblical worldview as evidenced by a lifestyle of character, leadership, service, stewardship, and worship.

In order to meet the mission and vision focus, NCCS hires only committed Christians, and all curriculum is taught through the lens of God's Word. The Bible teaches us that Jesus is the Truth and His Word is truth (John 14:6; John 17:17); every subject is taught with that in mind. In addition to the academic disciplines, the Bible curriculum is designed to provide students a thorough and practical knowledge of the Bible.



The Bible is a part of our daily curriculum. By the time students complete their studies and graduate, they have experienced courses that include a survey of the Old and New Testaments, the Life of Christ, Attributes of God, Christian Leadership, and Biblical Worldview Studies. Memorization is a strong component of all Bible classes with students having weekly Bible memory assignments.

The school places a high priority on chapel and missions. There are weekly chapels, a spiritual emphasis week, and an annual mission's week. NCCS is committed to bringing glory to God by making disciples through our teaching, worship, community service, and witnessing.

Students of all ages focus on serving their community and the world. This includes "Blessing Bags" by the preschool and elementary students. Secondary students complete a total of 30 hours of



community service per semester as part of their Bible courses: 10 hours to the community, 10 hours to the school, and 10 hours to service within their church. Annually the upper-level Spanish classes complete a special service project. These students travel to Honduras to spend a week sharing the love of Jesus through Scripture, worship, and intentional discipleship.

Through the years we have seen the ministry of NCCS bless our church and many other churches and ministries throughout the world. Alumni of NCCS are serving as missionaries, pastors, teachers, professors, and in many other vocations. Our church can see the

results of their ministry through the school. This local church works to connect and support the school in various ways, such as providing breakfast for all the school's staff. The church staff is actively engaged with the school through speaking in chapels and attending school events. Our lead pastor and one of our associate pastors serve on the school board.

While our church's purpose is not specifically to grow our church numerically through NCCS, we have seen many families come to our church through the school. In my small group at our church, there are



two families who attend as a result of the school ministry. We sometimes have exchange students who attend our school and our church. The church has been able to sponsor these students through scholarships and donations.

We are so thankful for the ministry team of Ferguson Church of the Nazarene for their active involvement with our North County Christian School. This team includes Dusty Thompson (lead pastor), Maukiesh Howard (associate pastor), Dave Speicher (associate pastor), and Dr. Greg Clark (NCCS superintendent).

To learn more about North County Christian School and its ministry as well as Ferguson Church of the Nazarene, check out these websites:

<http://www.nccsedu.org>.

<http://www.fergusonchurch.org>

You can also learn more on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/nccsedu/?rf=112502432096222>

<https://www.facebook.com/fergusonchurchnaz/>

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