

August 11, 2011

Hello Wonderful NCA Middle School Family,



As we gear up for a tremendous school year, I wanted to touch base with all of you and wish you a safe and happy summer. I am starting my third year at Northshore and am eager to get things rolling with our energetic students and staff.

Middle school presents precious opportunities for us to pour ourselves into the lives of our young people. In grades 6-8, our young people make the transition from children to adolescents. We at NCA hope to partner with parents to navigate these waters with wisdom, humor and grace. The enthusiasm and excitement with which our students approach each day is sometimes tempered by their uncertainties and questions. Together, we can mentor them and help each boy and girl find direction in Christ, Who alone can provide the anchor for their souls. – Michael Thornton, Vice Principal

Important Information:

1. New staff members!

Mrs. Pam Watson while not new to our staff, Mrs. Watson is new to our middle school. She will be teaching U.S. History, Bible and English to our sixth graders! Her past students at NCA love her and new students will be eager to learn from her in the Pavilion setting. Mrs. Watson has considerable experience teaching middle and high school students. We are thrilled to have her love for God and love for learning available to our youngest middle school students.

Ms. Courtney Frankhouser will be our new Orchestra and 8th grade Bible teacher. She has a master's degree in Music Conducting from Western Washington University. Ms. Frankhouser has directed the university orchestra and taught private violin students. We are excited to have her bring her enthusiasm for music and love of the Lord to our staff.

Mrs. Rachel Diede has expanded her role here at NCA. She will now be the Administrative Assistant for the middle school as well as devote efforts to sixth grade athletics. Drop by and see her bright shining face at the Middle School Office, located on the lower level of the Pavilion. She is eager to serve you!

2. New Building!



Our Middle School Pavilion will soon be open for classes! The walls are painted, the concrete is poured, and the light fixtures are in place. Before we know it, our students will be enjoying a 1200 square foot science lab, 7 well-appointed classrooms, a beautiful commons area inside and a lovely patio area outside. The downstairs should be ready for occupancy, Monday, August 22 and the upstairs should be available, Monday, August 29.

Please Volunteer for Pavilion Furniture Assembly: Calling all dads and moms! All of the new tables and chairs have been purchased with funds raised at the auction and Walk-a thon. (We are so grateful.) Yes, beautiful, new furniture...in

boxes! The tables and chairs are scheduled to arrive by August 29. We hope to round up some volunteers to assemble the furniture and complete the transporting of boxes that still need to be moved from the existing building to the new building. If you could help, please contact me at mthornton@northshorechristian.org. or call 425.322.2322. Thanks!

3. *New Classes!*

Beginning German: Students will learn basic expressions, numbers, phrases and other issues for basic literacy in the German language. *Sprechen sie Deutsch?*

Pre-AP Writing: Preparing students with skills necessary for success in later high school *Advanced Placement* English classes as directed by the College Board.

Google Sketchup: Students will learn to utilize a 3D software tool that combines a tool-set with an intelligent drawing system.

Servant Leadership: Developing skills necessary to become team leaders who work with others to achieve the most in school, business and in the Kingdom of God.

Pre-AP Physics: Preparing students with skills necessary for success in later high school physical science classes and Advanced Placement Physics classes as directed by the College Board.

World Missions: Studying how God is using various mission organizations to bring the hope of the gospel across our borders and around the world!

Android Apps: Design your own apps for Android phones. Could this be the launching pad for the next "Angry Birds?"

Managing Your Money: A hit with our Northshore School of the Arts and Enrichment students, this course will teach young people vital skills in the area of personal finance.

Peer Counseling: Introduces techniques aimed at improving interpersonal communication, practicing academic pair/share techniques and how to spiritually encourage classmates.

4. *Speaking of Sports!*

We are excited to be part of **two sports leagues** in 2011-2012. Our sixth graders will continue to compete in the Tri-County League, and our seventh and eighth graders will be competing in the Cascade League.

Sixth graders will compete in co-ed soccer, basketball and track (5th graders may participate in track). Our older students will have the opportunity to contest with other schools in girls soccer, cross country, volleyball, basketball and track.

WANTED: Team Mom(s) to help coordinate car pools and home game set-up! Since home and away matches will be off campus, a Team Mom for both teams is needed to help coordinate car pools for each match. Also, because of Mr. Donahue's teaching schedule, the Team Mom(s) will need to help by setting up for "home" matches. Set up includes: finding two volunteers to be lines people for the referee; preparing the clock/scoreboard and running the scoreboard (Mr. Donahue will show you how). **As compensation, the Team Mom(s) will receive a 50% discount on their registration fee!** Only one mom for each grade (two moms total) will receive the discount.

Want to find out more about athletics at NCA? Please join the NCA Athletic Advisory Board. Meetings are held monthly and center on short-range and long-range planning for Gator Sports. Fred Hawley is our president. Information on the 2011-2012 get-togethers will be sent to you soon.

Please go to <http://www.northshorechristianschools.org/athletics.php> for up-to-date information on all Gator athletic information! If you have input as to any of these ideas, please contact me at 425/322-2322 or at mthornton@northshorechristian.org.

5. *Orientation Dates!*

All 6th – 8th grade students and families will meet in the auditorium from 4:00-4:30PM on Tuesday, September 6 for general announcements and news of the protocols on the use of the Pavilion.

At 4:30PM, families will meet by grade, to hear from their child's core-subject teachers. Students will then receive their schedules and be assigned lockers. 6th graders will remain in the Auditorium, 7th graders will move to room A2 and the 8th graders will meet in the PAC.

At 5:00PM, all middle school families are welcome to tour the Pavilion to see the new home the Lord has provided for us!

6. *Spiritual Emphasis Week and the Middle School Retreat!*

During the week of October 3-7 we shall meet once a day for a time of spiritual encouragement and challenge. Monday – Wednesday we will meet in the Auditorium for special chapel meetings, and then on Thursday and Friday we will be off to Cedar Springs Camp for our annual *Middle School Retreat*. In addition to an exciting array of activities (archery, the giant swing, the zip line, etc.), our young people will be challenged to consider God's call on their lives as part of our month-long focus on *The Apostle John: Groomed for God's service and message*. Pastor Mike Wright will be our guest speaker!

What a tremendous year awaits us as we follow fast after the Lord and He reveals His will and ways to us. I am most thankful to be in a school where children are safe, challenged and God is honored!

See you soon!

Mr. Michael Thornton
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