



Developing Christlike Character
and Academic Excellence

May 19, 2010

Newton's News

Thoughts on Discipline - Part 3

Both teachers and parents will agree that defiance from a child is one of the greatest worries in terms of discipline. Defiant behavior is very serious because it attacks the authority of the teacher. If a teacher is unable to deal effectively with a defiant student, it will soon become impossible for the teacher to do his or her job. Acts of defiance occur even in a Christian school. After all, it is our human nature to defy authority and want to have it our way. If you have any doubts about this, just recall how Adam and Eve responded to God's command to not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Teachers are trained in several tactics for dealing with episodes of defiance. The follow list is taken from With All Due Respect by Ronald Morrish:

- Lower your voice and become more assertive, not confrontational. Stay calm. Becoming agitated suggests that the defiant student is winning.
- Do not allow the student to draw you into conflict. Avoid unnecessary confrontation.
- Defuse the situation. Humor can be a powerful tool, if used correctly.
- Do not challenge a defiant student, especially in front of his peers, because he would be forced to save face by doing something dramatic. When possible, deal with the student in private.

The above tactics are meant to help control a situation that has already begun to develop. The following approaches are used to help prevent incidents of defiance from occurring in the first place:

- Insist on compliance with minor behaviors such as greetings, saying please and thank you, picking things up, and putting things away. Our natural tendency is to overlook minor issues in an effort to avoid additional incidents. However, compliance in defiant students must be built by correcting and governing small behaviors.
- Teach defiant students effective ways of dealing with any frustration or anger that may have precipitated their behavior.
- After an incident, watch for occasions when the student handles similar situations appropriately. Acknowledge the student's efforts in this regard.

Wait on the Lord:
be of good courage,
and He shall strengthen
thine heart:
wait, I say, on the
Lord.

Psalms 27:14 KJV

Special points of interest:

- ✓ Thoughts on discipline
- ✓ Administrator Search Update
- ✓ STO Scholarship Deadline
- ✓ Change to 2010-2011 Calendar
- ✓ Summer Music Lessons
- ✓ Playground News

Thoughts on Discipline-Part 3 Continued

Please note that teachers requiring courtesy behaviors and compliance in small behaviors is a very effective tool in dealing with a defiant student, not to mention how these behaviors improve the overall environment of the school. Keep this in mind when you are trying to understand why your child's teacher may seem to focus on correct performance of a few behaviors or routines.

As I mentioned before, defiance is a natural human tendency. As we grow spiritually, we learn to submit to God's authority. Training our children to respect those placed in authority over them is a key part of their spiritual training. At a Christian school, the principal, teachers, parents, and board must all be of one mind on this issue. In this environment, acts of defiance will be rare.

Rarely, a student will decide to engage in repeated acts of deliberate defiance in spite of the best efforts of teachers and parents. The student has crossed over into a state of rebellion. This is a very difficult situation due to the detrimental effects the repeated behavior

has on the other students and the teachers, and would result in the expulsion of the student.

Ultimately, our behavior is a reflection of the attitudes of our hearts. The goal of Christian educators is to work with Christian parents to place the word of God in our children's hearts to shape all their thoughts and attitudes. I will close with two verses from Deuteronomy:

(30:14) Now, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

(32:47) They are not just idle words for you - they are your life.

Mark Kline

President, LCEA Board of Directors

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Administrator Search Update

Jim Nemitz, Chairman of the Administrator Search Committee, gave parents and staff an update on how the search is going at last week's annual meeting. He shared the committee's disappointment in learning that our leading candidate had turned down our offer. On the other hand, he shared optimistically that God is faithful and will supply us with His choice as we seek Him together. We then re-listed our ads with several major Christian school sites, and Jim talked with several recruiting companies that specialize in Christian school and ministry searches as a possible future option. Over the next couple of days the committee received about 15 new resumes! Of this new batch there were eight the

committee sent application materials to, and we are in the process of receiving those detailed applications back. Phone interviews with some of them will follow. They have conducted a phone interview with one of the candidates and are making plans to bring him in for interviews. Please keep praying for our future Administrator, for the committee, and for wisdom in discerning God's will! We are encouraged.

The Administrator Search Committee

STO Deadline

Is your family applying for an STO scholarship? You have just **14 days** until the deadline! All of the info is on the homepage of the website. Contact Tracy King with application questions. She can be reached at tking@incaonline.org, or in the office on Wednesdays and Fridays, You may also leave a voice mail message and she will return your call.

Project Playground

We continue to receive donations toward Project Playground, and are confident the necessary funds will be received and the playground will go in this summer! If you would like to donate, make your check out to Isaac Newton Christian Academy and indicate that it is for Project Playground. We also need volunteers to assist in putting together the new playground. If you can be part of that group, contact Lori Burr at lburr@aol.com.

2010-2011 Calendar Change

The Board of Directors voted at their monthly meeting to change the date for spring break to coincide with the Cedar Rapids school's spring break. Spring break will be March 21-25.

Summer Music Lessons

Miss Hungerford will be offering summer music lessons. If you are interested in having your children take instrumental or voice lessons, please stop in the office to pick up the green sheet with more details.

Calendar

May

20-22 8th Grade Class Trip to Minneapolis
 21 Chapel with Tim Pridegon
 3rd Grade to Westfield Tennis 1:10-2:50
 5th Grade to Linn County Fair Grounds 8:15-
 25 Preschoolers' Last Day
 8th Gr. Graduation 7:00 PM New Covenant
 27 Kdg. Graduation 7:00 PM INCA
 Last Day Hot Lunch will be served
 28 Middle School Field Day

June

1 PSO Meeting 6:30 Lounge
 Middle School Talent Show

Earn Tuition Credit

If you would like to earn tuition credit for the 2010-2011 school year by helping in the kitchen to prepare and serve school lunches, please call our Food Service Director, Carol Currans, at 721-9096.



Marion Transportation Reimbursement Forms

If you reside in the Marion School District and have not yet submitted your State Transportation form to our office, please do so before Wednesday, May 26th.