

***“State of the School Address,”***

By Dr. Bob Stouffer, Superintendent, Des Moines Christian

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

- First of all, as a community, we have suffered together through a disproportionately high number of cancers and treatments and deaths, drawing us closer to Christ and to each other. Never is the body of Christ more vibrant than when we are supporting all parts of the body! We have grieved with those who have grieved, and we have rejoiced with those who have rejoiced! The Lord gives. The Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the LORD!
- The Board successfully transitioned Board leadership from President Scott Erickson to President Matt Mayse. I have greatly appreciated working with both of those fine men (and the many other Board Presidents who have preceded them – Chuck Larson, Jeff Holt, Todd Goeldner, R. Kim Dreher, and Dan Grizzle)!
- Continuity of administrative leadership continues to be a real plus! Most of the 8 of us have been together around a decade! And we do not desire to be stagnant. We could become comfortable, but we are constantly looking for ways to enhance all programming of the school!
- The Board effectively read through 2 full sections of Board policy! That may seem like a trivial matter, but, believe me, it is not! I have been proud of the new process developed by former Board President Dan Grizzle, and we continue to become more efficient and effective in the manner by which this Board Policy Governance Board reviews, implements, and holds me accountable for effective administration of those policies!
- We successfully completed a pre-campaign study with The Timothy Group, receiving valuable information for the next steps of our leadership with the school. Be praying for discernment about important decisions. I believe the school is at a major crossroad, which God could use to expand our impact on our current families and those who will seek to join an growing Christian school.
- We are moving ever-closer to a strategic plan for Des Moines Christian. I said I would resign as Superintendent if a strategic plan were not in place by the time the next Board is seated in July, 2011, and we're very close to that reality. For too long, we have operated without a strategic plan, and these new action plans will allow us to focus our leadership. We must be proactive, not reactive, in leading the school.
- I am proud to announce tonight that the Administrative Team is ready to implement an excellent new evaluation instrument for support staff and the administrative leadership team. Listen for more about this instrument, which we hope can eventually be used with ALL employment classes at DMC.
- DMC received glowing reports from the Association of Christian Schools International and the Iowa Department of Education after accreditation site visits – in November and February, respectively. We should be both humble and proud of these extremely positive assessments by “critical friends” who will help us to become an even better school.
- Teachers and administrators received excellent professional development on differentiation of instruction from AEA personnel. Linda Steddum, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, is again to be commended for her outstanding leadership with all things related to curriculum, assessment, professional development, and accreditation!
- Academic achievement continues to be high, but we are not resting on our laurels. One of our Core Values as a school is “excellence in all endeavors.” Academic achievement should be our number-one-priority as a Christian SCHOOL.
- The spiritual health of the school is good, but we continue to seek ways of more effectively mentoring and discipling students. This is another of the key distinctives of our school. ALL of

our staff members are Christians who should be dedicated to loving, nurturing, and equipping the next generation to love learning and bear witness to Christ!

- We continue to successfully implement a biblical model of athletics, while playing at high levels in conference and district play. You will hear me continually speak of this topic, because I have a passion for positive excellence in all curricular and extracurricular programs of DMC.
- We grew spiritually as a staff through multiple morning devotions series. Twenty minutes a day, four times a week doesn't sound like much time, but doing the math tells us that such is significant time for full-time K-12 staff to gather, be in the Word, study biblical truth, ask hard questions, and hold each other accountable for spiritual growth.
- In a challenging economy, DMC greatly surpassed our 2010-2011 budgeted enrollment! Praise the Lord!
- At this point, we seem to be well on the way of surpassing our 2011-2012 budgeted enrollment! We are ahead of our pace a year ago! Stephanie Chase, Cade Lambert, John Steddom, and Administrative Assistants continue to schedule and conduct numerous tours and admissions conferences!
- Waiting lists in Early Education and Elementary are signs of excellence!
- Our financial health CONTINUES to improve dramatically! Treasurer Leo Herbers rightly pointed out that Des Moines Christian School is currently in THE BEST FINANCIAL STATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL! Praise the Lord!
- Our two main Development events – the golf fundraiser and the fundraising benefit were AWESOME community-builders and fundraisers!
- Whether people were supportive or opposed to the decision, the Board had the courage to make a very difficult decision about home school students and Des Moines Christian activities; either way, one or the other constituent was going to be angry, and the Board made a decision about what was best for the school as a whole, and there is UNITY. I personally praise God for unity, and we cannot seek or pray for unity of DMC often enough.
- We continue to be dedicated to Christ as the leader of this school! He is my boss! I follow Him. I want to be led by His Holy Spirit when making all decisions at Des Moines Christian!
- We continue to be dedicated to effectively integrating God's Word in all programs of the school! May we NEVER lose the passion for biblical worldview integration in all programming!
- Every day, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord at a school He blesses! Come sit in the office where I spend so much time. Look out the two picture windows. Drink in the beauty of God's creation. Reflect upon how God has blessed this school well past six decades of existence!
- Not one of us should take credit for these blessings! TO GOD BE ALL THE PRAISE AND HONOR AND GLORY!
- AMEN!