

From: Gary Arnold
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February, 2009

What a terrific winter **HOME**COMING for our students and alumni. Our girls' and boys' hoops victory, our delightful winter homecoming court and the myriad of spirit activities warmed up these winter days at just the right time. Go Warriors!

On that note, it's time for another Warrior conversation with Dr. Gary Arnold through his alter ego, G.T. Warrior, Esq.

G.T. (Golden Triangle) Warrior, Esq.: From this mid-year vantage point, **how do you think we're doing in terms of excellence** in pursuit of truth from a Christ-centered perspective?

Gary B. Arnold, Head of School: Glad you asked. Let me turn the question, how do YOU think we're doing? I mean it. During February you will be receiving an electronic survey to assess our mission-effectiveness from your perspective. Your feedback is essential to fulfilling our mission to provide an excellent Christian education in partnership with you.

GTW: The Warrior blog is sub-titled, "*Why We Do What We Do.*" So tell me, why did LRCA adopt the "**J-term**" model for our high school students?

GBA: There were a number of educational reasons behind the pioneering move and we are producing a parent handbook that will clearly define the philosophy and benefits of using two weeks in January for experiential learning. The best rationale for "**J-term**" is found on my blog and entitled, "*Difference-makers.*" The blog should be sub-titled, "**Our Phenomenal Teens!**" Please check it out at www.lrcaroundtable.com.

GTW: People have been asking about last week's "**snow day.**" Two questions .

1. What is the best way to be informed of a **school closing**?
2. When will we be **making up snow days** this year?

GBA: Humorously, these are the first snow days I've ever experienced without snow. I've learned freezing rain is not our friend. To answer your questions:

1. We will determine school closure by 6:00am on the day of the storm. When we decide to close school, we inform channel 4,7,11 and 16 (TV and web) of our decision and post the news on the school website. An email broadcast is distributed to our families.

2. We've had two snow days so far this year. The first is being absorbed within the regularly scheduled Grandparents' Day. The second snow day will be made up for all students on Monday, February 16.

GTW: Does LRCA have curriculum benchmarks for each academic subject area?

GBA: As a matter of fact, we do.

GTW: How would we go about looking at it?

GBA: Our working document (pre-publication draft) is posted on our website: www.littlerockchristian.com/academics/curriculum.aspx

The pdf file can be downloaded at your convenience. The primary purpose of the statement of curriculum is to **document our intended outcomes** at the end of elementary school (grade 5), middle school (grade 8) and high school (grade 12). We welcome your feedback.

In addition to the divisional benchmarks, we are in the process of reviewing and updating our K4-12 scope and sequence for re-accreditation in 2010. **There will always be a strong correlation between LRCA excellence and the LRCA curriculum. We cannot be excellent without an excellent curriculum.**

So, **what are we doing to ensure curricular excellence?** Let me tell you about two more current projects beyond the benchmarks and the scope and sequence:

1. **Science, K4-12.** We have assembled a **science curriculum task force** with over a dozen inputs (teachers, parents, professional scientists) to review and assess our science curriculum and to make recommendations for **making us better at thinking and learning scientifically** from a biblical worldview. As we **significantly expand our science and technology capacity** through our current capital campaign, we want to make sure we are doing all we can to prepare your children for the real world demands of the 21st century. See www.lrcaroundtable.com ("*A Stimulus Package I Can Believe In*," January 11, 2009 entry).

2. **Biblical worldview.** We are reviewing our Biblical Foundations curriculum for grade K4-5. **Biblical worldview begins on day one at LRCA, no matter what age**, with Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning, God created ." Our goal for grades K4-5 is to lay a strong, permanent foundation for biblical thinking in grades 6-12. We teach God's story of creation, fall, redemption and heaven to all our students in everything we do.

GTW: We keep hearing the phrase, "Learner Services." What does it mean?

GBA: **Come and learn more on February 19th (7pm) in the Elementary cafeteria.** Dr. Turner and I are eager to share with you our vision and plans for a healthy approach to serving whole families to the best of our ability within the boundaries of our mission.

GTW: By the way, is **construction** on our new high school on schedule?

GBA: By the grace of God, yes! We plan on occupying the new high school (and relocating the middle school) by the start of the 2009-2010 school year. The first beams of steel were erected on January 30th.



GTW: What is the status of our **capital campaign** to pay for the projects?

GBA: To date, by God's grace, we have been blessed with 7.7m in gifts and pledges. Equally important, over 300+ families and friends have claimed partnership in the projects. This is a new participation record for LRCA. With only \$1.3m remaining and 400+ families yet to participate, we can finish the campaign THIS YEAR! **Together We Can!**

Here's the math:

- A one-time gift or pledge of \$2,888 per family completes the campaign this year.
- Spread over 3 years, a gift or pledge of \$962 per family per year completes the campaign.
- Spread over 5 years, a gift or pledge of \$577 per family per year completes the campaign.

You and I are here "**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS!**" As the Lord prompts your heart, we look forward to your **participation** in this historic and transformational campaign.

GWT: Go Warriors!

GBA: Go Warriors! Go Cubs!

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