



THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE



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"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall but we rise up and stand firm."

-Psalm 20:7-8

Rejoice with us as our high school **students return** from J-term – a collection of professional internships, enrichment coursework and travels to Kenya, London, Paris, Madrid, Guatemala, Jamaica and the Bahamas. Your Warriors are "rising up and standing firm."

2012 is a **milestone year** for Little Rock Christian Academy. Founded in 1977, we are thrilled to celebrate our **thirty-fifth anniversary** throughout the coming school year. Planted by God, watered by godly pioneers, we continue to reap the benefits of thirty-five years of rising up and standing firm.

Unquestionably our roots are deeper, our trunk is stronger and our branches reach higher.

THREE TRUTHS

"Lord, help us take ground (rise up) and hold ground (stand firm) for Jesus Christ."

After 35 years, three truths rise to the top:

- **Christ remains central** to everything we do, every decision we make, every path we pursue.
- Little Rock Christian is **solidly competitive** in the marketplace of private education in Little Rock, especially in

our academic track record.

- The spirit of our engaged student body is **distinctively joyful and grounded** in viewing the world from a Christ-centered lens.

As our gates proclaim, we are a **CHRISTIAN** school; we are an **INDEPENDENT** school; we are a **COLLEGIATE** school. Never satisfied, we have every intention of being **THE BEST SCHOOL** for Christian families in Arkansas. This is a lofty goal and well within our reach.

We take education seriously; school is what we do. Our track record of 28 National Merit Finalists in five years, our ACT composite of 25.3 (compared to the state average of 20.3), our plentiful college scholarships affirm our words. Triply accredited, singularly certified, amply assessed, we are bountifully successful at preparing graduating seniors for college – academically, socially and spiritually.

Add to that the depth of character and creativity shaped by Warrior athletics and arts, your children are prepared for the next step towards adulthood. And, know this: the gospel of Jesus Christ will always be proclaimed and promulgated at Little Rock Christian. **No Jesus, no school.**

THE MAIN THING

Entering 2012, I am always eager to elaborate on how we aspire to honor God and you with the excellence that befits His name. As a school, the main thing is to provide a superior education. As a Christian school, the MAIN THING is **to provide an education that brings glory to God.**

What does that look like? How can we stay on course? How do we measure success?

For insight into what the Board and I are working on to answer these questions, [click here](#).

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

What learning initiatives are on the horizon to keep us from getting stagnant?

- Student Assessment
- Technology
- Language Arts / Spanish

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

When ACSI announced a change from Stanford Testing, we decided to seize the moment and make a switch ourselves – a change that adds actual value to the testing experience. After careful research, we selected [Northwest Evaluation Association's MAP testing program](#). Here's how value is added. We want to compete in a stronger norm pool and, even more importantly, we want to access **student data that reflects year-to-year individual student growth** (learning). The focus should be more than merely where your child's achievement is located on a bell curve. The real issue is how much your child has learned and progressed over the past year. Our new testing program will help us measure exactly that.

TECHNOLOGY

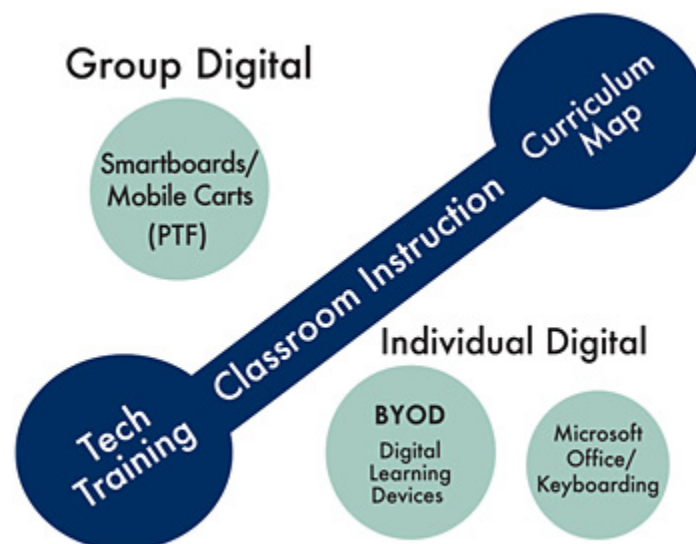
The most important thing that we can do for **meaningful technology in the classroom is to train our teachers** how to use the tools to increase the level of engagement and learning in the classroom and to keep up with the technology skills of the students. Whether it is by way of digital textbooks, internet research, iPad apps or office applications, the 21st century school demands more **"blended instruction"** – extending classroom learning by **connecting to the digital universe with tech tools**.

Therefore, beyond teacher training, the best way to look at our technology plan is to see the common core curriculum map enriched by group digital learning (more smart boards) and individualized digital learning (tablets, iPads, smart phones, laptops).

Next year, we are inviting students to "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD). Sooner than we think, textbooks will be digital and

backpacks will be lighter. Filtered, supervised, guided access to the digital universe will allow students to maximize their research and learning. While Promethean ("smart") boards and mobile device carts allow for interactive group instruction, personal devices will increase the individualization within the classroom.

Grateful to PTF for their partnership in our technology initiative/investment, this pathway will take time, training and trust to take us where we want to go. And, where, exactly, is that? I composed a handy mental model that captures our approach to being a 21st century schoolhouse.



LANGUAGE

The next subject area in our curriculum review sequence is language, specifically English and Spanish. Using the faculty task force model that improved our Science, Math, PE and BWV curriculum, we will be reviewing the quality of our reading lists and the way we teach literacy, grammar and composition. In addition, sensing Spanish needs more attention, we will muscle up our capacity to offer more Spanish in middle school.

GIVE THANKS FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE AND WHAT IS YET TO COME!

Finally, I urge you to do two things to underscore our plans and pathways for excellence. In the spirit of [Tim Tebow](#), take a knee to give thanks for the **waves of blessings** we've experienced. Pray for His pleasure to rule supreme at LRCA.

Put your ears to the ground. I hear the good rumble of **another push forward** coming just over the horizon. Pray that we will stay in step with the Lord - neither falling behind nor getting ahead of Him.

May we continue to RISE UP AND STAND FIRM in the coming year.

To capture the feel of campus life thus far this year, be sure to leaf through our upcoming mid-year Campus Connection. To tap into my thinking about LRCA and why we do what we do, visit [The Warrior Roundtable](#). Thank you for choosing Little Rock Christian to be your school.

In His service, at your service,



Gary B. Arnold, Ed. D.
Head of School

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Little Rock Christian Academy
www.littlerockchristian.com
19010 Cantrell Road, Little Rock, AR 72223
501-868-9822