

THE CONQUERING WRITER

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ISSUE 1

New Elective Tracks Introduced at ACS

Annie Cash



145 Worship, the student-led worship team at ACS, leads worship during a chapel. Haley Shadwell leads the solo on Holy Forever.

Beginning this school year, the high school students at Arthur Christian School were given the opportunity to participate in new elective tracks. The purpose of the tracks are to be more intentional about teaching students leadership skills by giving opportunities for hands-on, project-based learning where they can put these skills into practice to benefit both the students and the school. The students were able to choose between five tracks and had to interview for the tracks at the end of last year.

The Agriculture Track, taught by Mrs. Walker, focuses on Ag and other related fields. The goal of this track is learning how to do your best and how to do it all for God. Currently, this track is working on leadership development in Ag and preparing for a competition in land use. Students in the Ag tracks are also learning about shop safety rules and other things such as trades, building, and welding. Recently, ACS was gifted tools and equipment for this track,

which they will be using for various welding and building projects.

Mrs. Walker didn't grow up in Agriculture, but learned about it and started to love it when she wanted to travel to test different kinds of foods around the country. Mrs. Walker shared how Ag is the leading employer in the state of Illinois, and how she wants her students to know where their food comes from. Mrs. Walker is excited about the future of this track!



Students get their hands dirty in preparation for their land use competition.

In the Digital Media track, Mr. Mattheiss teaches his students how to shoot and edit videos, which they will be using to weekly announcements and a variety of other media related projects. Mr. Mattheiss enjoys teaching this track because he loves doing video projects and sharing what he has learned with his students.

Our third track, Worship and Ministry, is taught by both Mr. Dundee and Mrs. Reed. Both leaders have been in ministry positions

which they use to help teach students in preparation for various ministry opportunities. They are excited for what their students will accomplish this year by teaching them how to run and coordinate



Adrian Graber edits the weekly announcement video in Digital Media.



Students in Worship & Ministry study Scripture and discipleship essentials.

chapels. So far, students have a prayer team and greeting and announcements. As the year progresses, students will begin leading worship and sharing a message during chapels.

Mrs. Reed says she is a “walking fact of fun” (she was not happy I wrote this down), excited to dive deep into the word of God with her students. Mr. Dundee, however, said I didn’t need to interview him if I interviewed Mrs. Reed, so no fun facts about him. All of this said, both teachers are extremely excited for this year and years to come.

Lastly is the Business and Leadership track, taught by Mr. Mast. In this track, students will learn how to start and run a business from beginning to end and how to do it from a biblical view. Mr. Mast sees our generation as good followers, but wants to teach his students to step up and be good leaders, while also teaching them how to understand who God created them to be and what their calling is. Mr. Mast is excited about all the

tracks and he sees the potentials and benefits for all the students.



Brock Helmuth gives a presentation in the Business & Leadership track.

Native: The Awe of God

Kylie Gingerich

As many of you know, we do the first fruits every morning. First Fruits is an opportunity for us to gather as a school and focus our hearts and minds on Jesus first thing in the morning. Monday mornings we gather for worship, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are for Scripture reading, and Thursdays are small groups. This month we have been going through the



books of Psalms, and John. These are two important books that every young Christian should read. Psalms is a book of poems and prayers, while John is an account of Jesus's life, his teachings, and miracles. Being able to say our entire school from kindergarten to Seniors have read the longest book of the Bible, and a whole Gospel, is a blessing.

A new thing we've implemented this year are series in Chapel. The first few weeks of school our series was titled Native. We've talked about being in awe of God. Making sure that we are consumed by pursuing our relationship in God, and not worried about worldly things, and only in awe of Him. As humans we are created in the image of God, however as Christ's image bearers, we are called to share his message and praise him. In the last session we covered the four "G's".

- **God Is Great** so we don't have to be in control

- **God Is glorious** so we don't have to fear others.
- **God Is Good** so we don't have to look elsewhere.
- **God Is Gracious** so we don't have to prove ourselves.

We asked a few students what stuck out to them throughout the series, and these are the highlights we were given.

"The statement 'You might be the only Bible someone reads,' really stuck out to me. It made me think about how I present myself and if its in a way that reflects God."

"I remember being really convicted about where my awe is, like on things other than God. That was a big call to repentance and a reminder that I can't fix myself but need God's help."

ACS Volleyball Classic: A History Making Event

Charlotte Cash



The ACS Varsity Girls Volleyball team after their championship win!

The Volleyball Classic was an exciting time here at ACS, so if you weren't there, you missed out! Both our JV and Varsity teams played against many other schools, and we came out on top! Christian Lowry, our Athletic Director, said, "The Varsity team was off to a bit of a slow start, but I was

confident about their victory because of the team's leadership."

I spoke to a JV player, Elsie Beever, and she told me that it was exciting to place in the final game of the Classic. She enjoys the sport a lot, especially the girls' camaraderie and the coaches style of leadership. She said this about the tournament, "It was very energetic, and there was never a dull moment. At the end of the day it was tiring, but I enjoyed the chance to draw closer to the girls."

I also spoke with the assistant JV coach, Teri Cutler, and she was super proud of the girls for making it to the top. "It was amazing!

Some of these girls I have coached for four or five years, and just seeing the growth that they have had in the last couple of years just about brought me to tears at the end of every game. It was a wonderful experience." She loves these girls and desires to keep encouraging them to get better and stronger during each practice and game. She enjoyed watching the girls grow as they learned adaptability for the transitions on the court and the new positions some players had to play.

We are very proud of our girls and their showing at the ACS Classic. Great teamwork, sportsmanship, and excellent coaching were on full display!

ACS Teacher Spotlight

Charlotte Cash

Brooklyn Marion, a fifth grade teacher, is beginning her third year at ACS with her family. She says, "It brings me a lot of joy to teach here."

I asked about some of the things that she loved about ACS, and she said, "I love that we are centered around God and that we strive to raise kingdom workers while still educating." She loves being able to walk down the hall and see her kids, and having a relationship with their teachers. She is a bright light here at ACS and is a fantastic teacher. She said that when she first came here, she felt very welcomed and loved, and already a part of the ACS family.

She leads her classroom like they are a family, because she wants them to be open and there for each other. I admire her work ethic, and hope one day she can maybe teach a high school class!



ACS 5th Grade Teacher, Brooklyn Marion

FFA at ACS

Kylie Gingerich

As you may already know we have a small but growing FFA chapter. Over the past couple of years the Arthur Christian FFA chapter has tried out Multiple CDE (Career development events) competitions, and several conferences. This upcoming month the Ag elective class will all be attending the 2024-2025 National FFA convention.



The convention is composed of several Keynote speakers including Temple Grandin, and retiring dresses from the past years national officers. There is also a large expo hall with several college and company booths. Several leadership workshops are available throughout convention weekend, as well as community service opportunities. Every night there is a FFA event, including a rodeo, concert with Megan Moroney, and a hypnotist event. We will be attending the Rodeo. We ask that you keep us in your prayers as we travel and spend the weekend in Springfield October 23-26th.

This coming year every student in the Ag elective class is required to compete in one CDE, but are encouraged to attend them all. CDE's are competitions based on certain work forces. Some that we will be attending are: Landews, Dairy foods, Agronomy, Ag mechanics, Horticulture, and livestock judging.

All students are also required to maintain a SAE (supervised agriculture experiment), this is a record keeping of things from science projects, paying jobs, and community service. They also don't have to be AG related. Some past proficiency winners projects included a bakery business and working at a SubWay. Throughout the year we will be highlighting several of our FFA members SAE's, including details of their project and how they continue to progress their project.

Now, because this is the first issue of the Conquering Writers, and this is the first AG article, it only seems appropriate for you to meet the AG teacher.

“Hi! I am Courtney Walker, This is my third year at Arthur Christian, and I am a JH/HS teacher, and the FFA advisor. “

Q: How did you get into AG?

A: “I love to write, and I wanted to be a journalist. But journalism is a pretty broad field, and I wanted a niche, so I decided to be a food journalist. I wanted to travel the world and write reviews for fancy restaurants, that sort of thing. As a part of my major in agricultural journalism, I had to take many agriculture classes and I became especially interested in food supply issues. For the first time, I was really considering where food came from, and realizing that

many people in the world don't have the same steady access to food that I have enjoyed my entire life. Here was this whole industry responsible for every meal on my table that I hadn't thought twice about! It fascinated me, and I became more and more interested in understanding and supporting farmers and their families.

My first job after college was in agricultural



ACS FFA Advisor, Courtney Walker

sales. I was tasked with proposing solutions to farmers depending on their needs. I quickly realized that my favorite part of the job was not trying to sell products, but learning from farmers and in turn, teaching them about different options and technologies. This realization opened the door for me to go to graduate school to earn my masters in agricultural education. Now, I have a career that marries my two professional interests: education and agriculture.”

Q: What is your favorite part about working at ACS?

A: “The most important thing is Jesus. By working at ACS, I get to do what I love *for* who I love most. Before I worked at ACS, I felt like I had to be a little “sneaky” about my allegiance to Christ because I worked in a government school. I love that Jesus is front-and-center at ACS. I can boldly point to Him in all that I do.”

Q: What's your favorite thing about FFA?

A: “I love that FFA gives students opportunities to try out different hands-on tasks associated with different career paths. The FFA motto pretty much sums up what I believe about education: “Learning to Do. Doing to Learn. Earning to Live. Living to Serve.”

Q: How do you hope to see our AG program expand?

A: “I hope more students from non-traditional farm backgrounds will give the ag program a try. I didn't grow up on a farm, and yet I've found a love for the industry that feeds the world. Ag is for everyone - whether you're going to go into an ag career, or if your connection to ag will simply be in the consumer role. Ag will impact your life, so it's important to know a little about it!”

“Agriculture is the number one employer in the state of Illinois! 25% of all jobs in the state are connected to the ag industry. And that statistic includes major city areas, so the percentage is even higher if you consider only our local economy. When thinking about what you'd like to be when you “grow up,” it's important to know what jobs are available where you want to be. “

The Red Sea: Arthur Christian School Student Section



Students cheering on our girl's volleyball teams during Hawaiian Night.

The athletic program at ACS is a great way to connect with fellow students and parents! Please join us for all upcoming JV/V home games to support our student athletes! Make sure to follow @acs_studentsection on Instagram for updates on different theme nights!

9/21 Fr., JV/V Volleyball @9:00
9/21 Soccer @ 12:00
9/24 JV/V Volleyball @5:30
9/25 Soccer @ 4:30
9/26 Soccer @ 4:30
10/7 JV/V Volleyball @ 6:00

What to Expect in Future Issues?

In future issues of the Conquering Writer, you can expect many additional exciting articles and topics. In future issues, be on the lookout for an original comic, student spotlight, an alumni report and more in-depth articles about what is happening at ACS! For ideas on articles you'd like to see, please email writer@arthurchristian.org

Meet the Conquering Writer Staff



*Charlotte Cash,
10th Grade*



*Annabelle Cash,
8th Grade*



*Macoen Clarkson,
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*Kylie Gingerich,,
12th Grade*

The ACS Conquering Writer is looking for 3-4 additional writers and editors. For more information, please email writer@arthurchristian.org



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