



30 October 2015

Upcoming Events

- 29-30 October – Spiritual Life Days for upper school, Bro. Moses Sanchez, Evergreen Bible Chapel
- 31 October – Remember to turn your clock back one hour tonight!
- 5 November – Picture Day, 9:30 a.m. Order form enclosed.
- 6 November – Student Council Breakfast, 7:30-8:15 a.m., \$ _____
- 11 November – Veteran's Day, FJS **HAS** school.
- 13 November – Last day of 1st quarter
- 19-20 November – Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- 20 November – Deadline for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Flyer enclosed.
- 25 November – Thanksgiving Feast
- 26-27 November – Thanksgiving Vacation, **NO SCHOOL.**
- 17 December – Christmas Program. **NOTE: This is a change of date from the original calendar!**

What Makes an Education "Christian"? (part 3)

In this third and final part of "What Makes an FJS Education Christian?" I'd want to look at our physical education program and other competitive events.

Most or all of us have experienced the competitive nature of life. Siblings want to outdo each other, students compete for the best grades in school, employees work hard to earn their promotions, and, unfortunately, even parents sometimes are in competition with each other to decide who is right and who is wrong.

School, and competitive events in particular, are great opportunities to develop the relational skills which will benefit students throughout life. The Bible tells us to "*Love your enemies*" (Matthew 5:44 NIV). Paul writes, "*Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves*" (Philippians 2:3 NIV). In the well-known "Love Chapter," Paul instructs us, "*Love ... is kind, ... does not envy ... boast ... dishonor others, ... is not self-seeking*" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6 NIV).

Frequently here at school we hear boasting about good test grades, see celebratory "chair dances" when a right answer is given, and aggressive or mean play on the ball field. These are not to be part of healthy social relationships.

Does that mean we shouldn't try hard to do the best we can. Of course not. God always expects us to do our best. If we surpass someone on a test or our team outscores them on the soccer field, does that mean we are better persons than them? No. God has made each of us unique and special and we want to help students learn and appreciate that about themselves and about each other.

That allows us, then, to celebrate each others achievements. I get excited when, after a pro football game, I see the two quarterbacks congratulating each on a well-played game, or when, after a hard hit, a member of one team helps the member of the other team up off the ground. That shows me that real sportsmanship is happening. On the other hand, intentional foul play to gain an advantage, hoping the referee doesn't see it, is not good sportsmanship.

Umpires, referees, teachers, and employers all make bad calls sometimes or ask us to do things which we feel are unfair. The athletic field as well as the school classroom is a great place to practice godly responses to life when it seems unfair. The student who learns how to submit, even when he/she doesn't feel like it or the instruction doesn't make sense to him/her, will be far more successful in life than the student who always needs argue or disagree with what they are asked to do.

Some of these life lessons take years to learn, but Christian school where activities and relationships are supervised by Christian teachers is a great place to start learning!

Have a great weekend,
James E. Gochnauer, Principal

partnering with parents ... equipping students ... embracing truth