



# WAKE

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Dear WCA Parents,

September 16, 2014

In June 2010, North Carolina joined a growing number of states that adopted the Common Core State Standards. The implementation of these standards was scheduled to begin in the 2012-2013 school year. The CCSS were created to prepare students graduating from high school to be successful in college and future careers. The CCSS focus on English language arts and math and were designed to be more rigorous than the existing standards utilized by states. These changes have created a tremendous amount of discussion and analysis of K-12 education. There is much debate on the validity of the purpose and effectiveness of these new standards. Many states, including North Carolina, have since changed or modified their original goals of full implementation, and some have now opted out of the CCSS. Several states are now in the process of evaluating and revising their previous standards in light of the claims of the CCSS.

Wake Christian Academy's mission is to partner with the home and church to provide a quality Christ-centered education and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. With our mission centrally focused on providing a quality Christ-centered education, our board of directors authorized an analysis of our current educational goals against the CCSS. This project was designed to be a self-study and evaluation to ensure that WCA is preparing our students for the college or career path God has planned for them. The analysis was performed in the spring and summer of 2014. The analysis team was led by the following members:

- Pam Griffin – Ed.D. Student, Higher Education Leadership & Instructional Leadership—Nova Southeastern University; M.Ed., Teaching & Learning—Liberty University
- Wayne Helder—M.Ed., Administration/Supervision—Liberty University
- Larry Hoxie—M.Ed., Secondary Education—Bowling Green State University
- Justin Leonesio—Ph.D. Student, Mathematics—North Carolina State University; M.S., Mathematics—North Carolina State University
- Sonya Massengill—Ph.D. Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction, English Education—North Carolina State University; M.A., English — North Carolina State University
- Michael Manning- B.S., English Ed- Pensacola Christian College
- Sandra Sauls—M.Ed., Teaching & Learning—Liberty University
- Tina Scribner—Doctoral Studies, Educational Technology—North Carolina State University; M.S. Technical Education—East Carolina University
- Mike Woods—M.A., School Administration—Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

The study involved reviewing WCA's current English language arts and math goals and objectives, or education standards. In addition to these leaders, 13 faculty and staff members invested approximately 250 total hours over a 6 month period examining and comparing

WCA's goals and objectives, the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and the Common Core State Standards. The study was divided into two phases:

- Phase 1 consisted of a detailed examination of the three sets of standards to determine how WCA measured up. It was determined that WCA met or exceeded the vast majority of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and the Common Core State Standards.
- Phase 2 consisted of the reviewing of any standards for which WCA did not have a standard that specifically aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study or the Common Core State Standards. Phase 2 allowed the team members the opportunity to work across grade levels to determine if there was any needed realignment of when a standard was taught or if there were areas where WCA could strengthen our standards. In addition, we utilized this phase to evaluate and add any standards not originally addressed in our current educational goals and objectives.

It is the finding of the team that WCA's educational goals and objectives are robust and rigorous to meet the educational needs of our students and prepare them for success in college and future careers. In 2012, a thorough review of Wake Christian Academy's curriculum (including goals and objectives, or standards) was conducted by educators from 5 accrediting organizations (Christian and secular), and Wake Christian Academy was awarded full accreditation status. Below are the accreditation organizations who evaluated WCA:

- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools
- National Council for Private School Accreditation
- North American Christian School Accreditation Agency
- American Association of Christian Schools
- North Carolina Christian School Association

Through this self-study and the accreditation process, Wake Christian Academy will continue to work to accomplish our mission and prepare our students for college and future careers. Thank you for your partnership in Christian education.

In Christ,



Mike Woods  
Head of School