

October 31, 2011

Dear 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

It's time to begin thinking about CSA Festivals and Competition! Tri-City Christian Academy is a member of Christian Schools of Arizona (CSA). As a member of CSA, we have the privilege of participating in the CSA Fine Arts Festival and Competition. Every Spring CSA holds Elementary (4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>) and Junior High (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) Festivals and a Senior High (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>) Competition.

Since all 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade band and choir members will compete during the day and attend the Honors Concert in the evening on Friday, March 9, please do not make plans for your Spring Break until Saturday, March 10.

These festivals and competitions are designed to help polish and sharpen Christian students' God-given talents and their practiced skills. Many different events are available for student participation. Students who choose to be involved are encouraged to seek out coaching to prepare them for their events. At the festival and competition, the students will be judged and will receive comments from the judges. Students will invariably learn and grow through their involvement with CSA festival and competition, and they will be challenged to continue to improve upon their experiences. The Senior High CSA Competition prepares students to compete in the AACCS (American Association of Christian Schools) National Competition. Those who earn first place in their events at CSA are eligible to compete in AACCS National Competition in Greenville, South Carolina.

This year the Elementary and Junior High CSA Festivals will meet at the end of March: Friday, March 30. The Senior High CSA Competition will still be held before Spring Break on Friday, March 9. These dates may seem like a long time away, but now is the time to begin the process of getting our students prepared to compete. Please read the following information thoughtfully, considering how you can facilitate your child's involvement. Please revisit this website to keep updated on CSA Festivals/Competition.

Elementary and Junior High Festivals will be held on **Friday, March 30** at Arrowhead Christian Academy in Glendale. A brief awards ceremony will be held at the end of the day so the participants can receive their awards.

Senior High Competition will be held on **Friday, March 9** at Tri-City Christian Academy. A special Honors Concert will be held **Friday evening, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.** This is a required concert for all Senior High Competition Participants. During the Honors Concert awards will be distributed, select students will be showcased, and the Festival Choir and Festival Band will perform. The Festival Choir and Festival Band will be the combination of ALL of the CSA choirs and bands, and they will rehearse after all of the day's

competitions are over. It is an exciting opportunity for our young musicians to be a part of such a large performing group. You will not want to miss this colossal concert!

For Elementary, Junior High and Senior High, lunch will be pre-ordered for all contestants, and dinner will be pre-ordered for all high school band and choir members. The cost will be automatically added to each student's school bill. If your child has special dietary needs, please contact Mrs. Susie Yuen by Thursday, January 19 to make necessary arrangements.

Dress Code for the CSA Festivals and Competition will be Concert Dress:

**All Boys:** Don't forget to wear black socks!

**Elementary:** White shirt, dark pants/skirt, no tennis shoes

**Junior High:** Black skirt/pants, approved dress shirt, black dress shoes

**High School:**

**Choir/Band Boys:** Dark suit, white collared shirt, designated tie, studs, black dress shoes, black socks

**Choir/Band Girls:** School provided black dress; black dress shoes

**Non-band/Choir:** Wear appropriate Sunday best

As a parent, you play a key role in getting your children involved in the CSA Festivals and Competition.

- First, encourage them to sign up. The deadline for signing-up for all CSA events is **Friday, December 9**. Remind your children to talk with the division coordinators for the events that interest them and to sign up.
- Second, encourage them to diligently prepare. It takes months to thoroughly prepare for competition, so preparation must begin NOW!
- Third, keep encouraging them all the way to Festival/Competition Day.

Parents should plan to attend their child's performances.

NOTE: Students will not sign-up for academic testing. High School and Junior High Teachers will approach students about participating in academic testing. All elementary students will take a preliminary test to qualify.

Our school can send only two contestants for each event, so In-School Run-Offs may become necessary, depending on interest. These run-offs will be held for various Bible,

Music and Speech events. Run-Offs will be January 23-25. Memorization will be required. More information for run-offs will be available through Division Coordinators.

The Division Coordinators have a complete list all of the rules and regulations for their events. They can also explain the specific events in more detail. Do not hesitate to contact me, or any of the Division Coordinators, with any questions you may have.

CSA Festivals and Competition are a huge endeavor. If you are available to help in any way on March 9 or March 30, please call the Academy office at 480-245-7902.

Thank you,

Mrs. Susan Yuen

CSA School Coordinator

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480-245-7958