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Dear FCA Families,

Faith Christian Academy's mission is to glorify God by serving parents in providing their children with a distinctly Christ-centered, classical, collaborative, and academically excellent education.

Therefore, Faith Christian Academy's athletic department seeks to glorify God by serving parents in providing extracurricular sports activities to student-athletes for the sake of their spiritual growth, discipline, character, and growth in community and teamwork.

Over the past nine years, FCA's athletic program has grown exponentially and seen many changes and improvements. Three years ago, the Lord provided the Cookingham property with a gymnasium and soccer field. Since moving into this new space, FCA's athletic teams have taken home several tournament championships and the athletic program continues to grow and become more competitive.

This year, FCA varsity teams played in every conference championship game in men's soccer, women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, and women's soccer. FCA's men's varsity basketball team won the regular season and conference tournament championships for the first time since 2009. Nine years ago, FCA had seven athletic teams. At the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year the athletic program includes 17 athletic teams. Currently, FCA will consist of the following sports and teams for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Junior high and varsity men's soccer
- Junior high, junior varsity, and varsity women's volleyball
- Fifth/sixth grade, junior high A and B, junior varsity, and varsity men's basketball
- Junior high, junior varsity, and varsity women's basketball
- Junior varsity and varsity men's baseball
- Junior high and varsity women's soccer
- Grammar school and secondary track

In the early years of FCA Athletics, there were many seasons with not enough athletes. FCA has grown so much since those early years. Nine years ago FCA's student enrollment was 200 students, K-12. Looking ahead to the next school year FCA is projecting 380+ students enrolled in preschool-12. The Lord has been very gracious to FCA!

When FCA acquired the gym and soccer field, there were renovations that had to be made. In order to accomplish these tasks, the athletic department took out a loan to complete the renovation with the goal of paying it off over a period of five years. During the last two-and-a-half years, the athletic department has been ahead of schedule each month in paying off this loan. In January, 2021, the Lord provided an answer to prayer and allowed the loan to be paid off two-and-a-half years early!

FCA Athletics believes in having five-year and ten-year goals so that the programs may grow. Now that the previous five-year goal has been met, it is time for FCA Athletics to set new goals for the next five, ten, and even twenty years.

It is important that FCA families know what is happening with FCA Athletics for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond.

FCA CULTURE AND VISION FOR ATHLETICS

The FCA athletics program is a Christian, competitive athletics program. What does this mean?

FCA Athletics' number one mission is to point student-athletes to Christ in any and every way possible. The athletic department's desire is to retain coaches who are knowledgeable of the sport, but, more importantly, are coaches who know Christ, and have a healthy balance of living for Christ and desiring to be excellent in competition. FCA Athletics uses sports as a vehicle to help student-athletes grow in character, integrity, respect, self control, discipline, work ethic, and responsibility.

As with many things, involvement with sports is a delicate balance. FCA Athletics desires, most importantly, to point student-athletes to Christ and to strive for excellence in competition in team and individual sports. This looks different at every level.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

- Faith Christian Academy's athletic department seeks to glorify God by serving parents in providing extracurricular sports activities to student-athletes for the sake of their spiritual growth, discipline, character, and growth in community and teamwork.
- Junior high and junior varsity teams are developmental in nature; game time is not guaranteed. There is a balance of playing to win and playing to develop. The top seven or eight student-athletes on any team will get more game time than remaining student-athletes filling out a team. All athletes at the JH and JV levels should receive playing time, but playing time is not guaranteed. Coaches determine playing time and there are numerous factors in determining playing time.
- In contrast, varsity teams are not developmental, but competitive. Student-athletes will get game time based upon skill, athleticism, hard work, and character. FCA varsity teams compete at the highest levels while, at the same time, learning character and discipline. Playing time is determined by skill and ability to produce on the court or field.
- Student-athletes must meet the academic eligibility standards, which can be found in the FCA family policy handbook.
- Student-athletes must meet the athletic code of conduct and FCA school code of conduct to remain eligible to participate and compete in athletics at FCA.

THINKING AHEAD

Grammar school families, please consider the following regarding participation in sports.

- As the FCA athletic programs become more competitive, it will become more difficult for your student-athlete to make a team.
- The FCA Athletics Department recommends that those considering participation in sports in the future begin laying the foundation in skill development and teamwork now.
- This summer, FCA Athletics will begin assisting grammar school families in fielding FCA-based grammar school teams to compete in local parks and rec sports.
- FCA will need coaches, so, if interested in coaching a specific sport, please contact the athletic director at knightsad@fcaclassical.com.

CONFERENCE AND STATE AFFILIATIONS

Another aspiration of the athletic department is to develop opportunities for student-athletes to compete in additional post-season tournaments, giving them the opportunity to compete in big moments.

FCA's athletic program currently holds membership in the Metro Christian Athletic Association (MCAA) Conference along with six other schools/homeschool organizations with similar philosophies and school size. These schools are Blue Ridge Christian School, Cornerstone Family Schools, Heritage Christian School (Topeka), Northeast Kansas Homeschool, Shawnee Mission Christian School, and Whitefield Academy. In each sport (volleyball, soccer, and basketball) the MCAA Conference teams compete for regular season and conference tournament championships.

Beginning next school year, 2021-2022, FCA Athletics is planning to join the Missouri Christian School Athletic Association (MCSAA). The MCSAA aligns with the philosophy and goals of FCA Athletics and will provide another opportunity for student-athletes to compete at a high level for state championships.

FCA's cabinet has voted to add, in addition to the MCAA Conference and FBBC (Iowa) tournaments, the MCSAA state tournaments. FCA Athletics is excited to announce this opportunity for our student-athletes!

As FCA continues to grow we must make changes to accommodate that growth.

HOMESCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETES

Since the inception of FCA's athletic programs, homeschool student-athletes have been able to compete alongside FCA student-athletes. Homeschool student-athletes are subject to tryouts in the same way that FCA student-athletes are.

Due to increased enrollment, limitations on the number of teams that FCA can support, and FCA's desire to do everything well, FCA has made the following decisions regarding homeschool student-athlete participation in FCA Athletics:

- Effective during the 2021-2022 school year, FCA will no longer accept requests for new homeschool student-athletes to compete in the FCA athletic program (including track).
- All existing homeschool student-athletes are subject to tryouts for all athletic teams.
- All homeschool student-athletes who have competed up to the 2020-2021 school year are grandfathered into FCA's athletic program with the following stipulations:
 - Sixth-eighth grade homeschool student-athletes may compete with FCA during the 2021-2022 athletic seasons but:
 - Existing sixth-eighth grade homeschool student-athletes will not be eligible to play for FCA in the 2022-2023 school year unless they enroll in a minimum of one credit hour (part-time) at FCA during the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Ninth-twelfth grade homeschool student-athletes may continue to compete for FCA Athletics during the remainder of their high school career with the following stipulations:
 - Ninth-twelfth grade current homeschool student-athletes will be able to compete during the season, but will not compete in the MCSAA state tournament.
 - Homeschool student-athletes are welcome to travel with the team, and assist with the team during this tournament but they are not permitted to play.

FCA ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT FINANCES

In an effort to clarify costs and monies allocated, the athletic department's budget for the 2021-2022 school year is attached. In addition to the 2021-2022 athletic department budget there are several short and long-term financial goals to ensure that we continue to provide great athletic facilities, uniforms, and equipment for our student athletes.

SHORT-TERM FINANCIAL GOALS (2021-2022)

- Establish consistent, increased coaching stipends. The stipends are sports-based and will be communicated individually by sport.
- Provide opportunity for varsity student-athletes in fall and winter sports to attend two out-of-town tournaments.

- Provide opportunities for women's soccer and men's baseball to participate in one out-of-town tournament.
- Replace both soccer goals on the soccer field (approximate cost: \$3,000-\$4,000 for two goals).
- Hang soccer scoreboard (approximate cost: \$1,000 - \$2,000).
- Replace women's JV/varsity volleyball, women's JH volleyball, men's varsity soccer, men's JV/varsity basketball, and women's soccer uniforms (five sets at an approximate cost of \$1,000-\$2,000/set with a total approximate cost: \$6,000-\$10,000).
- Establish an athletics program savings for a new gym floor in 17 years (approximate initial cost: \$4,000).

FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL GOALS

- Incorporate additional sports with possibilities including golf and cross country.
- Provide new uniforms approximately every five years in each sport (as needed).
- Maintain an athletics program savings for a new gym floor in 17 years (approximate continuing cost: \$4,000/year with a goal of saving \$20,000 within five years; total approximate cost of floor: \$85,000-\$100,000).

TEN-YEAR FINANCIAL GOALS

- Continue to replace uniforms (as needed).
- By Year 10, acquire \$40,000 in athletic savings for a new floor.

FIFTEEN-YEAR FINANCIAL GOALS

- Continue to replace uniforms (as needed).
- By Year 15, acquire \$60,000 in athletic savings for a new floor.

Sports are expensive, but the financial commitment is worth it. The classroom of sports is vitally important in order for our student-athletes to learn how to compete properly, to lose with dignity, to win with humility, to walk in self-control and to control their emotions in highly competitive moments. Sports teach discipline, toughness, and character that is tested by fire. The athletic department is excited about where FCA's athletic program is now and where it is headed.

Please direct any questions or interest in helping to meet these goals to knightsad@fcaclassical.com.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Standlea
Athletic Director