



# EAGLE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 7  
ISSUE 1

## Mission Statement

*With God's guidance, Jefferson Christian Academy will cultivate and maintain an environment where the student is nurtured and challenged to realize his/her potential in spiritual maturity, academic attainment, athletic achievement and social and emotional development.*

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## Congratulations Graduates!

We are very proud of the 2016 graduating class of JCA! This class of 24 students have been awarded \$1,271,620 in scholarships!

One graduate will be entering the Army in July and the other 23 have enrolled for college to start in the Fall.

Congratulations on a future we know is bright! Please help us welcome the new Alumni of JCA!



**Dates to remember:****August:**

9th - Middle/High Orientation  
 10th - All Grades Registration  
 11th - Elementary Orientation  
 15th - First Day of School  
 15th - New Student & 7th Grade  
 Mandatory iPad Training  
 27th - 28th - Speech & Language  
 Testing (K2 - 3rd Grade)

**Dates to remember:****September:**

1st - 2nd - Preschool Fall Pictures  
 5th - Labor Day Holiday  
 6th - Mandatory Junior Parent Night  
 6th - Mandatory Senior Parent Night  
 6th - Children's Theatre (K4)  
 8th - Children's Theatre (K5 & 1st)  
 6th - Magazine Sale Kick-off  
 7th - 9th - ACT Prep  
 15th - Senior Portraits  
 15th - Fall Pictures (K4-11th)  
 21st - Herff Jones Meeting  
 (10th & 12th Graders)  
 27th - Children's Theatre (4th - 5th)  
 29th - Children's Theatre (2nd - 3rd)  
 30th - 4th Grade U.S. Space and  
 Rocket Center Trip

## Making History

Webster defines History as “past events that relate to a particular subject, place, organization, etc.”

Using Webster’s definition, 2015 – 2016 was definitely a history making school year for the students at JCA. Several events in which they participated, or made possible, will, without a doubt, go down in the history of Jefferson Christian Academy.

### Academics

2015-2016 was not the first year JCA had a graduating class of 24. This was not the first year 96% of our graduates are going to college, or some deciding to serve their country by joining the military.

This was however, the first year that a class of 24 was granted \$1,271,620 in scholarships. This topped our previous record of \$860,000.00 and our annual average of approximately \$470,000.00, which, in its self, is outstanding for a graduating as class as small as ours.

### JCA – AHSAA- Athletics

As our parents looked on and shouted their approval, and as our enthusiastic cheerleaders worked to excite the crowd and keep them involved, our athletic teams made 2015-2016 a record year, adding more “Historical Matter” to the JCA record book in 2015-2016.

- Our Volleyball team advanced to the Super Regionals in Montgomery for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- For the first time ever, the high school Cross Country team had a qualifier for State.
- Girls Basketball won the area championship and hosted the Sub-Regional Tournament.
- Boys Basketball won the area championship, hosted the Sub-regional Tournament and advanced to the Regional Playoffs at Alabama State in Montgomery.
- Our Baseball team battled through and as a result enjoyed the most successful season in their short history.
- Our Softball team won the area championship, advanced to the Regionals in Troy, and went on to play in the State “Final 8”playoffs in Montgomery. This was the first time our team has made it to the final eight in AHSAA.

## **Congratulations to All JCA Coaches and Athletes**

“Congratulations on your school being one of 77 AHSAA member high schools that went fine and ejection free in the 2015-2016 school year. We look forward to recognizing your school’s outstanding efforts at the eighth annual Star Sportsmanship luncheon on July 22.”

**Steve Savarese, Executive Director, AHSAA**

We recently received this correspondence notifying us that, once again, based on the behavior of our coaches and athletes and the character they exhibited, JCA will receive the Star Sportsmanship Award. Of the 401 high schools in the AHSAA, only JCA and 76 other schools will receive this honor.

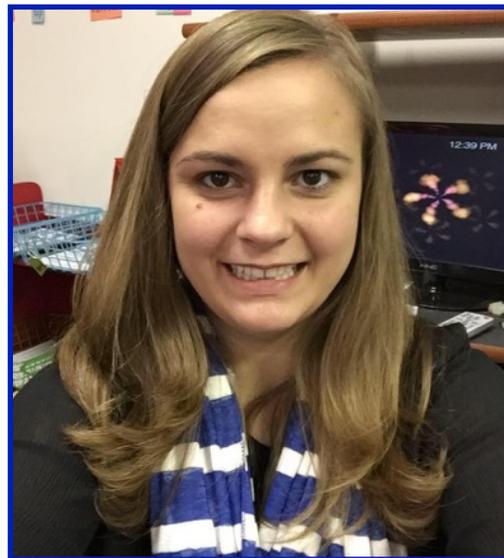
Congratulations to our athletes, coaches and parents for receiving this very special award.

## **Exciting Changes to Elementary Sports**

The 2016 – 2017 school year was also a successful year for elementary athletics. Many of our students medaled in cross country, and Coach Singleton’s 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys’ basketball team made it to the semi-finals. We had a record breaking enrollment for cheerleading, cross country and basketball. Because of that we have experienced a few growing pains.

JCA has recently added a new position in order to better meet the needs of our elementary athletics. We are very happy to announce that Morgan Snodgrass will be the new Elementary Athletic Director. Mrs. Snodgrass is not new to elementary athletics. She is the administrative assistant for the Birmingham Regional Athletic Association, which is the league in which our elementary students compete.

Mrs. Snodgrass has great ideas and plans for our elementary athletic program. One of the changes she has already made involves registration for all sports. This year parents will be able to register students for all sports on registration day, August 10<sup>th</sup>. She also has plans to better organize practice times for all teams.



## **Science Olympiad Success**

Our elementary Science Olympiad team, which consists of a group of students from grades 4 through 6, competed in the annual State Science Olympiad meet on the campus of Jacksonville High School in Anniston, Alabama. Over 600 students participated in the event. Our team, coached by Sara Shoemaker, was one of 32 teams. We finished in the top half of the participating teams which is an amazing accomplishment.

*Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.*  
*John F. Kennedy*

## Changes

The 2015 – 2016 school year was definitely one for the history books, in both negative and positive ways. The school year was off to a great start when on Friday of the second week Coach Chandler called in sick. He said he was not feeling well and was going to the doctor. After visiting the doctor that day he stopped by the school and said he would be at work on Monday. Coach Chandler died on Sunday morning.

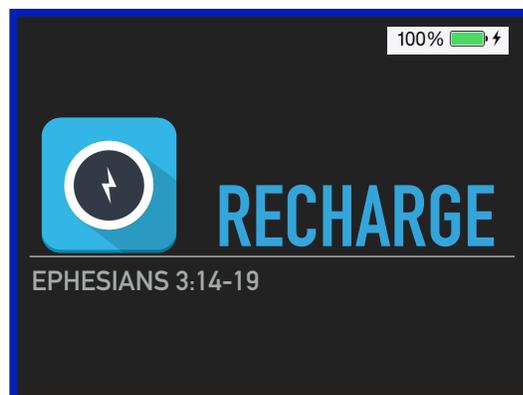
This was a shock to his family and the JCA family as a whole. All of our students from K-4 up to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade knew and loved him. To say his death put an emotional drain on the school year would be an enormous under-statement. School however, went on.

Later in the year we learned that Ms. Posey's husband, a pharmacist, had taken a job in Fairhope, Alabama. While she was very excited, and we were possibly a bit envious about her moving to the beach, she was sad about leaving her JCA family behind.

Next, Mrs. Taggart's husband lost his job due to cut backs at his company, and they chose to make a move to Montgomery and a new school, Alabama Christian. About the same time Mrs. Burrows and her family, after many years away from home and family, decided it was time to move back home to California. Mrs. Phifer, who is expecting her third child, wants to be a stay-at-home Mom for a while and has chosen to take a year off.

One might say, especially in the area of staff, that there was a lot of transformation at JCA this year. This however, is not a negative thing, because of the opportunities it provides us. At JCA we choose not to be melancholy and bemoan the loss, instead we choose to embrace the prospects ahead. Time has shown that those who have the wisdom and forethought to seize the opportunities before them can bring about innovations that possibly would not have transpired without change.

We are very excited about the 2016-2017 school year and the countless blessings God has provided for our students. We look forward to working with you and your family as we "Recharge" and move forward.



## New Principals

### Middle and High School Principal

I am very pleased to announce that Mrs. Ruth Brooks has been selected to lead our amazing Middle and High Schools. I couldn't have been more excited when Mrs. Brooks notified me that she would accept this position. It is truly an honor to have her continued service as an invaluable member of the leadership team for Jefferson Christian Academy.

Mrs. Brooks is a very familiar face at JCA, since she has been here for over 20 years. Many around here, reflecting on the old TV program by that name, refer to her "Our Ms. Brooks".

Ruth Brooks is originally from Double Springs, Alabama. She attended the University of Alabama where she marched in the "Million Dollar Band." She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Language Arts in 1986 and has worked in Christian education ever since. Before coming to JCA she taught English and Spanish at West Birmingham Christian School for 6 years. She has taught English and Spanish here at JCA for almost 20 years.

Mrs. Brooks also serves as our Drama Department head and has produced numerous

plays and musicals. Three years ago she was selected from a group of 14 applicants to be our Elementary Principal.

In addition to her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Alabama, she has a Masters of Education in Technology Degree from Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. Her husband, Ray, is a minister at Brookside Church of Christ. Her two sons, Luke and James, are both graduates of Jefferson Christian Academy and Lipscomb University. James currently works in Nashville, TN as a Physical Therapist assistant and Luke is a student at Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.

Mrs. Brooks has represented the school at the annual Apple iSummit for schools using Apple for Education. She has been incredibly focused on our vision of making JCA a world class school in technology and academics, using the knowledge she has gained from numerous classes and workshops to train our faculty in 21st Century Technological Based Education.



*The thing that lies at the foundation of positive change, the way I see it, is service to a fellow human being.*

**Lech Walesa**

Mrs. Brooks is very excited about the opportunity to continue her service to our students and parents.

I know you will also be very excited when she tells you about her vision for our middle and high school.

## **Elementary Principal**

We faced a very difficult task in finding a suitable, highly qualified person to replace Ruth Brooks as Elementary Principal. In addition to the qualifications of education, elementary teaching experience and specialized training in the Collaborative Classroom, we wanted someone who understood the true purpose and value of a Christian education. Someone who comprehends the challenges many children face in school and one who is familiar with struggles faced by small schools. With the help of our Mrs. Brooks, members of our faculty, and suggestions from parents, we were very successful in our search.

It is an immense honor to announce that Mrs. Rebecca Stanley has been selected to serve as our new Elementary Principal.

Mrs. Stanley is a graduate of Jefferson Christian Academy. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Harding University, in Searcy Arkansas, a Masters Degree in Collaborative Teaching from the University Alabama Birmingham and a Masters Teaching Certification, English as a Second Language from the University of Alabama Birmingham.

She is State Certified – Elementary Education – Grades 1-6, Collaborative Teaching- Special Education – Grades K-6, and English as a second Language Grades P-12.

Mrs. Stanley taught first grade at JCA for 3 years before moving to Chalkville Elementary, where she has taught for 15 years and was twice voted Teacher of the Year. Prior to teaching at JCA she taught first grade at Arlington Christian in Atlanta, where she was voted Teacher of the year.

She has served on the Alabama State Department of Education Task Force for Curriculum, she was the Outstanding graduate for Special Education at UAB in 2004, she received the Jefferson County Dissemination Trainer Award in 2007 and was voted Outstanding Regular Education Teacher in Alabama in 2005. She is the author of a published work, "The Use of Literacy Strategies in the Inclusive Classroom" -2004.

Mrs. Stanley and her husband, Ben, have three sons: Connor, a junior at Auburn University; Garrett, a sophomore at the University of South Alabama and Parker who will be in the fourth grade at JCA.

We are very blessed to have Mrs. Stanley back at JCA, and I know you will be very excited when you hear her vision for our current Elementary School and our future Intermediate School.



Bill Brown  
President

## Principal's Message

It is with much excitement and anticipation that I share that I am transitioning to become the new Middle and High School Principal at Jefferson Christian Academy. While I have thoroughly enjoyed two very rewarding years as the Elementary Principal, this move feels like coming home since I spent almost 20 years teaching high school English, Spanish and Drama at JCA. I look forward to building on the already strong connection that I feel with the middle and high school students and teachers.

I leave the Elementary in excellent hands. Mrs. Rebecca Stanley has been involved with JCA as a student, teacher, parent, and mentor. After spending the last 25 years in elementary education, she is coming back home to JCA and taking over as the new Elementary Principal. I am extremely excited to work with her as we focus on Christian education initiatives, the Alabama Course of Study, use of data to inform instruction, consistent implementation of newly-adopted direct instruction strategies to increase students' achievement, and to provide exciting and challenging enrichment opportunities for all students.

Specifically, I hope to ensure that JCA middle and high school students are given plentiful opportunities to develop leadership skills that will not only benefit them now, but will also put them on the road to success in college and in future careers. At the same time, I want our students to recognize and seize upon equally important opportunities to serve others. JCA is blessed with a competent and capable student body and faculty, and I have no doubt that together we will accomplish great things.

Our theme for the 2016-2017 school year is "RECHARGE" (based on Ephesians 3:14-19), and that is exactly what we plan to do. With a recharged and renewed attitude, we are eager to begin a new school year with improvements in all areas including academics, spirituality, and athletics. Focused on Christ's example, we can hardly wait to build and strengthen relationships with students, teachers, staff, parents and the community.

I hope that you will share in my excitement as we eagerly anticipate a new year.

Ruth Brooks

## Principal's Message

As your newly-appointed Elementary Principal of Jefferson Christian Academy, I write this letter of introduction with humility and excitement for the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich tradition that has produced so many outstanding students.

My perspective is unique in that I have been a student, teacher, parent, and mentor at JCA. Over the years, I formed relationships with many of the current students and teachers. I look forward to fostering these relationships and working with our staff to provide a world-class Christian educational experience for each child.

I have been dedicated to the field of education for 25 years with a specific concentration in Elementary Education, Special Education-Collaborative Teaching, and English as a Learned Language. My most recent experience has been shaped by 14 years of successful teaching as an Elementary Teacher at Chalkville Elementary for the Jefferson County Board of Education. I am elated to bring my educational leadership skills to JCA and to work with you as a partner in education toward your child's success.

Along with teachers and staff, I will work hard to continue JCA's legacy of success by building strong relationships with parents, students, and community partners. We will focus on Christian education initiatives, the Alabama Course of Study, use of data to inform instruction, consistent implementation of newly-adopted direct instruction strategies to increase students' achievement, and to provide exciting and challenging enrichment opportunities for all students.

All of us at JCA are eager and excited to begin what promises to be the best year yet. In a world where Christian beliefs and ethics are tested daily, Christian education is becoming more important than ever. This year, we want to "RECHARGE" (Ephesians 3:14-19) as we continue to provide Christian academic experiences for our students that are rigorous, relevant, and relationship-building. As your Principal, it is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors—teachers, students, and parents—are excited to be here! This attitude enables us to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, fun, and nurturing environment.

My door is always open, and I welcome your input. Please feel free to stop in, call, or email me to discuss any concerns, suggestions, or ideas to help make this the best year yet!

I feel truly blessed to be the instructional leader of such an excellent school community.

Rebecca Stanley



**Years In Education**



**Years at JCA**

13 as a student  
(K5 - 12th Grade)  
3 as a Teacher

*Rebecca Eason Stanley*

**Years In Christian Education**

3 years at JCA  
5 years at Arlington Christian School  
3 Years as Director/Teacher at  
Roebuck Parkway Child Development



**Teacher Certificates:**

Bachelors of Elementary Education  
Masters of Special Education -  
Collaborative Teaching  
Masters Certification of English as a  
Learned Language



**Years in Public Education**

Chalkville Elementary School  
Jefferson County Schools  
12 Years - 5th Grade Teacher  
2 Years - 1st Grade Teacher



**Universities Attended**

Harding University  
The University of Alabama in  
Birmingham



**Hobbies:**

Reading  
Music  
Outdoor Activities  
Face Painting



**Years of Marriage**

Husband: Ben Stanley  
Employer: Blue Cross Blue  
Shield of Alabama



**Years of Being a Member of the Church of Christ**

Baptized and grew up at the  
Roebuck Parkway  
Church of Christ  
Current member of Heritage  
Place Church of Christ



**Children**

Conner - Junior at Auburn University  
(Aerospace Engineering)  
Garrett - Sophomore at The University  
of South Alabama  
(Biology - Pre Med)  
Parker - 4th Grader at JCA