



As Seen In... U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges Issue, September 2009
Special Advertising Section

Grace Christian School

Amazing God, Amazing People, Amazing Results

"The Bible says in Christ Jesus 'are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.' (Col. 2:3) That tells you who we are in a nutshell."

—Nate Davis, Superintendent, Grace Christian School

Preparing for College

Grace Christian School is able to produce and replicate a rather amazing statistic rarely found in any college prep program, parochial or private: 95 percent of its graduates go on to post-secondary education in colleges, universities or military schools.

What's the secret to the school's success?

"By God's grace and His training plan, we have developed a system that cultivates a culture of learning. There is peer pressure for kids to do well," says Nate Davis, Grace Christian's superintendent. "Teachers create dynamic classrooms of learning. But ultimately, it's up to the kids. Here they are achievers. They do their homework. They study for tests. They love life. They thrive!"

The Anchorage school was established in 1980 by Anchorage Grace Church. Founded on a rigorous Christ-centered educational program, Grace serves the entire community of evangelical churches in the region, welcoming students from over 70 different churches. It has nearly 700 students in grades K-12, with a college prep program that has earned Grace a national reputation for exceptional students among the nation's finest colleges and universities.

"We have challenging college prep instruction not always found at other schools. We offer several Advanced Placement courses," Davis says. "We are very upfront with parents who want to enroll their child that it is going to be very tough academically. Yet, we educate with kindness and a perspective of who created it all."

Grace actively integrates biblical faith into every educational experience, whether in the classroom or

out. As Davis says, "If we are only teaching the mind, and not the spirit, we have a very incomplete education. For example, in math class we talk about design and order. No man created math. Two plus two is four, not because man made it up, but because God designed this order into His creations so we can discover Him."

Grace also offers yearly mission trips to Guatemala, Russia and remote Alaskan villages where students help in schools, work on building projects, and share the Gospel.

Recently, the church and school have undertaken an expansion program that has provided a new 350-seat auditorium completed late in 2008. A new gymnasium will open in the fall of 2009.

Davis, with 13 years at Grace and 20 years' experience as a teacher, coach and principal, says he has learned the key to a successful education is to have the school, the home and the church all working together to give students a clear purpose and direction. "When we do that, kids thrive instead of just survive. So many teenagers just try to survive high school years."

He sees that approach working every year when he runs into graduates. "They come back and say how easy college is compared to Grace. These kids have a spring in their step, a purpose in their heart, a love for the Lord and a love for their fellow man."

Grace Christian School has turned its name into an acronym that Superintendent Nate Davis says "captures our keys to success."

- **G**raceful, signifying compassionate and loving teaching.
- **R**igorous, high standards and expectations.
- **A**ccountability between parents, students and teachers.
- **C**hrist-centered, since Jesus created us and redeemed us.
- **E**ngaging, the teacher is responsible to engage each student each day.

Our Vision: To educate leaders who have a passion for Jesus Christ through the integration of faith and learning.



GraceChristianAlaska.org

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