

Baldwin Christian School

A Classical Academy

Kindergarten through 12th grade

A day in the life of Sophie Moore

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"I think you'll agree with me that BCS is challenging but worth it. I know it's shaping me into a better student and I pray that it molds me into a stronger worker in God's Kingdom."

Sue Hanson

Ever wonder what being a student at a classical Christian high school is like? To find out, let's join Miss Sophie Moore, a fictitious 10th grader, on a typical Friday morning at BCS.

Hello! I'm Sophie - welcome to BCS! It's just before 8:10 am. We're in the hall in the lower level of the Baldwin Christian Reformed Church, across Highway 63 from the main BCS building.

The first order of the day is a test in Bible, a class taught by Mr. Charlie Hokanson. Before we start the test, Mr. Hokanson reads to us from Luke 14 and prays that we would be numbered among those that are in Christ's family because we do God's will.



The test consists of 8 essay questions about parables, from 'What is a mashal?' to 'With reference to the audience, what is the point of the Good Samaritan parable?' They're tough questions, but Mr. Hokanson, whose passion for God's Word



shines through in his teaching, has prepared us well.

I turn in my test shortly before the allotted hour is up, put on my coat and cross Highway 63 to help students in Mrs. Wieser's classroom with reading. During this time, some of my classmates - there are 14 of us altogether - have study hall, others study Biblical Greek with Mr. Hokanson, while the freshman work on Logic with Mrs. Maribel Hokanson. I return to the high school in time for Geometry class at 10.

Mr. Gary Sumner, our math and science instructor, introduces the material we'll need to complete the proofs for our next lesson and we grade each other's assignments, reviewing some of the tougher problems together. Ouch, I missed 2 questions on the homework - definitely need to bone up on the theorem on inequality. Next up: Chemistry.

Mr. Sumner has brought in the materials for our lab: bottles, balloons, vinegar and baking soda. The lab, a demonstration of limiting reactants, proves to be pretty interesting and a bit messy since some of the balloons don't hold up through all 3 repeats, but Mr. Sumner guides us with his trademark enthusiasm and good humor.

Well, it's just about lunchtime. Thanks so much for joining me this morning. I enjoyed your company and I hope you enjoyed this brief look inside the classical Christian high school at BCS. I think you'll agree with me that BCS is challenging but worth it. I know it's shaping me into a better student and I pray that it molds me into a stronger worker in God's Kingdom.

Classically Trained Minds

**Excerpt from:
The Why of
Classical
Education**
by John Seel

The greatest minds of the Christian church as well as the founders of the American republic had this form of education. C.S. Lewis, for example, did not come out of nowhere. He writes:

To lose what I owe to Plato and Aristotle would be like the amputation of a limb. Hardly any lawful price would seem to me too high for what I have gained by being made to learn Latin and Greek.

When Thomas Jefferson was planning the University of Virginia in 1819, he wrote:

It should be scrupulously insisted on that no youth can be admitted to the university unless he can read with facility Virgil, Horace, Xenophon, and Homer: unless he is able to convert a page of English at sight into Latin: unless he can demonstrate any proposition at sight in the first six books of Euclid, and show an acquaintance with cubic and quadratic equations. Anything less would make the place a mere grammar school.

One senses immediately how far education standards have slipped. Our secondary education no longer prepares men and women to have the intellectual background or mental discipline of our founders or our early church fathers. Classical Christian education is not a fad, but one of the most profound educational reform movements in America today.

Do we want to promote an education that accepts the status quo or an education that equips our children to be powerful agents of change in an increasingly post-Christian culture? The promise of classical Christian education is the latter.

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Inside the Classroom

Focus: Dokime

In Mrs. Hokanson's Logic class, she asked the students on an exam why we study logic. One of the student correctly answered: 1) To recognize false arguments. 2) To intelligently refute these false arguments. 3) To keep from becoming a victim of false arguments such as evolutionary thinking. 4) To recognize where an argument is breaking down and counter the argument at its weak point.

Mr. Sumner's chemistry class is began a section on chemical combinations. He

started by asking the class, "How empty is an atom?" Then for perspective, he used a quarter to represent the nucleus of an atom and to demonstrate the distance from the nucleus to the electron, he explained the space would extend to 1/3 of a mile. Now that's a lot of empty space in an atom!

So far in Mrs. Shaw's Omnibus class the students have read 5 books including such classics as the *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis and *The Oresteia*, which is an ancient Greek Drama.

Mr. Hokanson's Greek class is studying the non-indicative moods of Greek grammar, which draw out the nuances and deeper meaning of the Biblical text.

The students are also learning hermeneutics in Mr. Hokanson's Bible class. Hermeneutics teaches them the principles of Biblical interpretation, which equips them to study the Bible with great accuracy.

There is great practical and lasting value in the education these students receive at BCS.



Inside the Classroom, Continued

The K-1 classroom is moving right along. With much excitement the kindergartners are all reading.

The entire class enjoyed making bakers clay Christmas ornaments using a dehydrator.



This last quarter the 2nd – 3rd grade students participated in the annual Thanksgiving Program. It is always filled with lots of thanksgiving facts and many laughs.



Along with the other subjects, the 4th-6th graders are working their way through the New Testament. As is appropriate for the season, they are currently reading about the birth of Jesus.



They also welcomed a local veterinarian, Dr. Tim Engel,

to their classroom. He was kind enough to share about his occupation with the kids.

The 7 & 8 grade students read the classic *Sleepy Hollow*. To illustrate the story, they constructed a life sized headless horseman. Who says reading is boring? Certainly not these students.



Did you know?...

Tuition alone does not cover our expenses?

We have about a \$10,000 deficit gap that needs to be filled to insure that our expenses do not exceed our income.

What's New This Quarter

We are looking forward to our Christmas Program on December 17 @ 7pm at the CRC church across the street from the school. We would love to see you, and ask that you bring friends and family to enjoy a wonderful program by our BCS students and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

For the first time this year we are going to have a parent deliver a parent-appeal for year-end funds.

We want to make it easy for people to be generous, so this year we'll hear from another enthusiastic school parent, and

- we'll place a baskets by

the doors for you to drop your donation.

- Any of the many parents, grandparents, relatives, students, and guests can give checks, cash, or pledges.
- The credit card donation button on the school's website can also always be used to make a gift via credit card.

All donations, including stock or gifts in kind, are fully tax-deductible.

Donations to Baldwin Christian School support the financial health of the school, which in turn supports the quality of our students' education. If you

feel that BCS is a benefit to young people in our area, if you value what they are receiving here, please consider a generous gift.

We still have to raise over \$10,000, which takes into account our expected annual giving from society members, in order to meet our budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year. So, thanks for your generosity.

We covet your prayers. Please pray for the school, the board, the teachers, the parents and the students.

Feed my starving children mission project



In our annual mission project the lower school formed eight teams to see who could get the most change in their buckets. This competition produced \$221.00. This is enough for 1300 meals.



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WISH LIST

- NEW CARPET FOR WEST END CLASSROOMS
- \$ FOR SNOWSHOES FOR PHY. ED
- Warm 15 meter building to practice archery.

Please designate on your giving statement where you would like the funds allocated.

To donate online with a credit card click [HERE](#)

We're on the Web!

baldwinchristianschool.org

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who are interested in Christian education.

We have used our wonderful network of families and friends to obtain your email address; however, if you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to info@baldwinchristianschool.org.

Home-school Connection

4) *What are some of the unique academic aspects of the classical program we should be made aware of?*

Some classical schools begin Latin in the third grade, so if your child enters at that point, there should be little problem. Older children can often be placed in an accelerated program or perhaps begin work during the summer months. The grammar stage will also use a lot of memorization and chanting as a means to teach the students. This

may be unfamiliar to you and your family.

Logic is usually taught in the junior-high program, and it is very important that your older student not miss this building block. Ask the school about tutoring possibilities, Writing, including correct grammar and spelling will be very critical to the classical program your child will enter. Plan to see an emphasis on this, as well as reading many titles (including historical biographies and novels), and using possibly a

higher level of math and science than many other school programs.

5) *Are there any peer problems we should anticipate, since our child is just joining the class, and may be the only homeschooled child?*

Upcoming Events

December 17 – Christmas Concert & Ensemble @ CRC; 7:00pm

December 23 – No School: Christmas Vacation Begins

January 3 – Classes resume

January 20 – End of Second Quarter

January 21 – No School; Teacher in-service day



Links—ctrl + left click the words below

- Grandparent's Cove
- Photo Gallery
- Support Classical Christian Education [HERE](#)

If you have a webpage, either business or personal, would you consider adding a link to our webpage? The more people who link to us, the more visible we become on the web. Thank you for considering.