

# Annual Report 2008-2009



## Elkhart Christian

*Academy*

preparing students for life

Education that is:

**Distinctive. Biblical. Life-changing.**

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Elkhart, Indiana

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Elkhart, Indiana 46517  
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Education that is:

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BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES;  
THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.

ISAIAH 40:31



## Word from the Administrator

Dear Friend of ECA,

In 2009, Elkhart Christian Academy celebrated 36 years of God's blessing as a ministry of First Baptist Church of Elkhart! What began as an empty field and a dream has grown into a dynamic pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Christian school that is committed to an education that is ***distinctive, Biblical, and life-changing!*** Ultimately, we want to prepare students for life—a life of impact for the cause of Christ. Allow me to share with you some of the highlights and challenges of the 2008-09 school year:

- **Sectional Champs:** In October, our girls' varsity volleyball team repeated as sectional champions! Again, they lost to eventual state champion Michigan City Marquette in the regional finals. We believe our volleyball program is one opponent away from making it to the state championship!
- **Senior Missions Trip:** For the second year in a row, our senior class went on a missions trip to the Dominican Republic with SCORE International. Many students' lives were changed and even college/career choices were affected. We view this trip as the capstone experience at ECA to challenge our graduates to live for something bigger than themselves.
- **Graduation of Class of 2009:** On May 29, forty seniors walked across the stage at First Baptist Church to receive their high school diplomas from Elkhart Christian Academy. This brings our alumni total to 1330! We are confident that they have been prepared to be change agents for Christ. Ninety percent of our most recent graduates attended post-secondary schools this fall.
- **1st Grader Recognized Nationally:** A student in Miss Eger's class was selected as one of the top ten winners (from 12,000 entries) in the Scholastic Book Club's "Picture a President" contest. Samantha Anderson's chalk drawing of George Washington was included in the February 19, 2009, edition of *USA Today!* We are so proud of Samantha's achievement and praise our Lord for her wonderful artistic abilities.
- **One Million Dollar Donation:** In October, we launched our \$5 million capital campaign to expand our athletic facilities, add a student commons area, and give the entire front of the building a face-lift, with the help of a generous \$1 million donation! All together, we have raised \$1.6 million to help with this important expansion project.
- **Practice Field Donated:** As school let out in June, we began work on a new practice field on the southwest corner of the campus. All of the excavation, seed, and irrigation costs have been donated to the school! This field will serve well our athletic and physical education departments in the years to come.
- **Early Education Restroom Project:** This August, we began a restroom project for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students. Thanks to a \$60,000 donation, we are able to add these age-appropriate restrooms to enhance our early education program. The students have been so excited to use restrooms that are right there in their classroom—and the restrooms have made cleaning up from classroom art projects much easier!
- **Suspended Capital Campaign:** Due to the current recession, the School Board made a decision in March to suspend the capital campaign for six months at which time its status would be reviewed. The Board did decide this September to suspend the campaign for six more months. In March, the Board will review its status once again. It is our prayer that the local and national economy will improve so that we can get to work on achieving our long range plan for our campus.
- **Major Cuts:** The recession and the anticipation of a significant enrollment decline forced the Finance Committee of the Board to make major cuts to the budget to "right size" the school. Not only were over a dozen positions eliminated, but a dependence on fundraising was decreased by nearly \$100,000. Though these cuts did help us evaluate our current staffing and programming forcing us to streamline our operations, these cuts affected people we served with everyday and did transfer some new responsibilities to other staff members. One major decision was not to replace retiring secondary principal,

Mr. Jack Raudenbush. Consequently, Mrs. Sue Alberts is the principal over the entire school and I have added to my responsibilities institutional advancement. We will continue to evaluate our staffing and programming needs in the future to make sure we are being the best stewards of the tuition and donation dollars entrusted to us.

As you can see, it was a year full of much change! And yet as we look forward, we realize only God knows what the future holds. I ask that you please continue to pray for the following:

- **Spiritual Impact:** That God would continue to draw all men (students) to Himself. God is in the life-changing business and we need to be faithful in praying for the spiritual transformation of our students.
- **Families that can't afford ECA:** Our heart's desire would be to offer a Christian education to families who desire it. The reality is that private education has a price tag that many today cannot afford, especially in our current economy. We are working hard to make an ECA education accessible to as many as possible. Even though we froze our tuition in the elementary grades, many families are still struggling to make ends meet. The Finance Committee of the Board is working hard to keep tuition costs down because we want to help the families who want to be here but cannot afford it.
- **Fundraising Gap:** Because we have embraced an affordability paradigm at ECA, we must fundraise the difference between what we charge families and the actual cost of educating students. This past year, our tuition revenue was only 85% of our total revenue. We are already working hard to shrink that gap and become less dependent on fundraising for our budgetary needs and use more gift income to help struggling families with tuition assistance. This year, we are seeking **500 individuals who can give \$500 to sponsor one student at ECA.** We have experienced good success with this campaign but are in need of more individuals to help with this need. Please prayerfully consider participating yourself as well as pray for a harvest of donor dollars that helps students receive an ECA education this year.
- **Student Retention and Recruitment:** Our current facility is capable of serving over 650 students. At 475 today, we obviously have room for more students. Please continue to pray that God will keep our current students and bring the new students He wants to our school. I ask that you please refer your friends to ECA. Our marketing efforts can only go so far in today's information overload society. You are our best recruiters! We trust that you have had a great experience at ECA and would be willing to share your story with someone who could benefit from an ECA education. A **tuition credit of \$350** is extended to any family who is directly responsible for a new family enrolling at ECA.
- **Permanent Endowment Growth:** Our permanent endowment today stands at \$568,000. In order for ECA to be a more viable ministry for the next generation of young people in the Elkhart area, we need to grow this endowment. The interest off of a large endowment is the answer to our affordability and fundraising issues. Please pray about this important long-term matter. If you or someone you know would be interested in donating to this important fund either through cash, stocks, assets, or estate giving, please have them contact us. We need individuals who believe in Christian education to contribute to this long-term funding vehicle.

I trust my communication as well as the information in this **Annual Report** gives you more insight into where Elkhart Christian Academy is and where it is headed. Together, with God's help, we will continue to see life transformation in the lives of students entrusted to our care. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of this most necessary ministry for the Christian parents in the greater Elkhart area who desire an excellent education integrated with Biblical truth for their children.

For His glory,



Dr. Brian A. Dougherty

# CHAPTER ONE: PROFILES

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## SCHOOL PROFILE

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Elkhart Christian Academy is the result of a bold vision and great faith of Godly men and women who had a burden for Christian education. In the early 1970's, the leadership of First Baptist Church of Elkhart desired to see children taught Scriptural truth in an academic setting. In a series of events that only can be described as miraculous, our school opened in the fall of 1973 with 100 students.

The steps of this faith journey have been incredible. A Christian businessman was led to give a lead gift that funded half of the initial project. An ideal property was located, but the door closed. God had a better plan that involved more than real estate. The owner of this second property was an unbeliever. After much prayer and several witnessing opportunities, miraculously this man trusted Christ as his Savior. With that most important transaction complete, the conversations turned to purchasing his farmland which eventually came to be known as "Miracle Acres."

The first building served the high school in 16 classrooms, offices, and a gym while the lower elementary grades met in the church. Over the years, our facilities have grown with our vision. Today's campus is 62 acres and our 80,000 square foot building accommodates 550 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Additions have provided space for the library/resource center, computer labs and science labs. The fine arts wing houses a large band/choir room, Eagles' Hall (all-purpose room/cafeteria/gym), home economics room, two large classrooms, teachers' lounge, and several private music tutoring rooms. In 1996, the lower elementary classes were moved to the current site. Then, in 1997-98, a second story with seven high school classrooms and an art room was added. Since then, several smaller projects were finished to better utilize existing space.

The miracle of how God has provided our wonderful facility is only part of the story. Life-changing miracles happen everyday in our classrooms as students are transformed by Biblical truth fully integrated throughout our entire curriculum. Elkhart Christian Academy serves 340 families from more than 90 area Bible-believing churches. Our mission is education that is ***distinctive, Biblical, and life-changing.***

Our academic quality is reflected in the fact that our student body consistently records high SAT/ACT scores. Our students enjoy smaller class sizes and individualized attention. A network of more than 150 personal computers and large monitors in every room provide the latest in technology education available to our students. Our Talent Development program also provides valuable assistance to students with learning difficulties.

Caring teachers are the heart of the Elkhart Christian experience. Our teachers are college graduates and have been certified by the Association of Christian Schools International. While our teachers' academic credentials are impressive, more importantly, our faculty model Jesus Christ inside and outside the classroom.

A well-rounded education includes a variety of extracurricular opportunities. Elkhart Christian students can participate in fine arts activities such as art, music, and drama. Our indoor and outdoor sports facilities provide quality space for our students to enjoy soccer, cross country, baseball, softball, basketball, and volleyball. Our campus is designed to facilitate the process of ***preparing students for life.***

### **TEST INFORMATION- CLASS OF 2009**

#### **ACT Mean Scores**

	<u>ECA</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Nat'l</u>
English core	23.0	21.6	20.6
Mathematics core	23.3	22.4	21.0
Reading core	23.4	22.6	21.4
Science Reasoning core	22.2	21.6	20.9
Composite core	23.2	22.2	21.1

#### **SAT Mean Scores**

	<u>ECA</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Nat'l</u>
Critical Reading	516	496	501
Mathematics	525	507	515
Writing	491	480	493

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## 2008-09 SCHOOL BOARD PROFILE

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**Mr. John Cullip**

School Board President  
ECA Alumnus  
Alumni parent  
Owner, Cullip Industries

**\*Mr. Dan Filpus**

School Board Vice-President  
Chairman of Finance Committee  
ECA Alumnus  
Finance Manager, The Pinnacle Group

**Dr. Brian A. Dougherty**

ECA Administrator  
ECA parent  
2 years of service at ECA

**Mrs. Sue Alberts**

ECA Elementary Principal  
23 years of service at ECA  
Alumni parent and grandparent

**\*Mr. John Raudenbush**

ECA Secondary Principal  
7 years of service at ECA

**Mr. Paul Sigg**

Alumni parent  
Math teacher, Elkhart Community Schools  
6 years of service as Board member

**\*Mrs. Stacey Jones**

Alumnus, alumni parent and current parent  
6 years of service as Board member  
Homemaker and caterer

**Dr. Len Ferguson**

Alumni & current parent  
Doctor at OBGYN Associates of Northern Indiana  
Liaison with Parent-Teacher Fellowship  
5 years of service as Board member

**Mr. Kelly Hull**

Member of Property Committee  
Alumni parent  
Owner, Panamax Plastics, Inc.  
5 years of service as Board member

**Mr. Dan Ganger**

Alumni parent  
Chair of Property Committee  
Owner, Michiana Ag Irrigation Service Company (MAISCO)  
4 years of service as Board member

**Mrs. Linda Lyon**

Alumnus and alumni parent  
Prenatal Education Coordinator and Lactation Consultation at Elkhart General Hospital  
First year of service as Board member

**Mr. Tim Lehman**

Alumnus and alumni parent  
Owner, Premium Investments, Inc.  
First year of service as Board member

\*Term ended in June 2009

School Board members whose terms began July 1, 2009:

**Dr. Jeff Burden**

Current parent  
Dentist, Goshen, Indiana

**Mr. Todd Feenstra**

Current parent  
Hydrogeologist, Tritium, Inc.

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## 2008-09 ADMINISTRATION, DIRECTORS, FACULTY AND STAFF PROFILE

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### ADMINISTRATION

**Brian Dougherty – Administrator**

B.A., Purdue University, Education  
M.S., Purdue University, Education  
Ed.D., Ball State University, Education  
**Years in Education: 18      Years at ECA: 2**

**\*John Raudenbush – Secondary Principal**

B.A./B.E., Columbia Bible College (SC), General Studies  
M.Div., Philadelphia Theological Seminary, Theology  
M.A., Adelphi University (NY), Education  
**Years in Education: 42      Years at ECA: 6**

**Sue Alberts – Elementary Principal**

B.S., Bob Jones University (SC), Elementary Education  
M.S., Indiana University, Education, Counseling  
**Years in Education: 33      Years at ECA: 22**

### DIRECTORS

**Kimberly Clem – Guidance Counselor**

B.S., Bob Jones University (SC), Health, P.E., General Science  
M.S., Indiana University, Secondary Education  
**Years in Education: 23      Years at ECA: 19**

**Bret Deardorff – Fine Arts Director**

B.S., Grace College, Music Education  
M.M., West Chester University (PA), Music Education  
**Years in Education: 24      Years at ECA: 15**

**Mitch Hasse – Technology Director**

B.S., Montclair State University (NJ), Computer Science  
**Years in Education: 15      Years at ECA: 15**

**\*Randy Nemitz – Advancement Director**

B.S., Minnesota State University,  
**Years in Education: 6      Years at ECA: 6**

**Andrew Ryall – Campus Pastor**

B.A., Bethel College, Youth Ministry  
**Years in Education: 2      Years at ECA: 2**

**\*Mike Ryall – Athletic Director**

B.R.E., Baptist Bible College (PA), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education: 28      Years at ECA: 21**

### FACULTY

**Barbara Anderson – Media Specialist**

B.S., Elizabethtown College, Elementary Education/History  
M.S., Florida State University, Library Science  
**Years in Education: 22      Years at ECA: 12**

**Beth Bender – Elementary Teacher**

B.S., Baptist Bible College (PA), Elementary Education, Bible  
**Years in Education: 17      Years at ECA: 17**

**Michelle Beyler – Music Teacher**

B.A., Bethel College, Music Ed., Piano, Voice  
M. M., University of Notre Dame, Piano Performance  
**Years in Education: 26      Years at ECA: 10**

**Cathy Billman – Secondary Teacher**

B.S., Bob Jones University (SC), Education, Art, English  
**Years in Education: 27      Years at ECA: 22**

**Rick Billman – Secondary Teacher**

B.A., Bob Jones University (SC), Christian Education  
M.S., Baptist Bible College (PA), Christian Education,  
Administration  
**Years in Education: 27      Years at ECA: 22**

**Marcia Bishop – Elementary Teacher**

B.S., Faith Baptist Bible College (IA), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education: 20      Years at ECA: 12**

**Jason Branim – Secondary Teacher**

B.S., Baptist Bible College (MO), Pastoral Studies  
M.A., Grace Theological Seminary, Bible  
**Years in Education: 8      Years at ECA: 5**

**Al Brown – Secondary Teacher**

B.A., William Paterson University. (NJ), Elementary Education,  
Science  
**Years in Education: 25      Years at ECA: 3**

**Kimberly Buck – Elementary Teacher**

B.S., Indiana University, Elementary Education  
**Years in Education: 6      Years at ECA: 6**

**Walt Buckles – Elementary Teacher**

B.S., Purdue University, Horticulture  
M.A., Drake University (IA), Biology  
**Years in Education: 40      Years at ECA: 29**

**Peter Casaletto – Secondary Teacher**

B.A., Cedarville University (OH), Education, Spanish  
**Years in Education: 17      Years at ECA: 17**

**Jill Eger – Elementary Teacher**

B.S., Grace College, Elementary Education  
**Years in Education: 15      Years at ECA: 15**

**Joe Elrod – Secondary Teacher**

B.A., Bob Jones University (SC), History, Speech  
Transition to Teaching certificate, Grace College,  
**Years in Education: 7      Years at ECA: 3**

**Susan Graham – Secondary Teacher**

B.S., Slippery Rock University (PA), Secondary Education,  
Math  
**Years in Education: 14      Years at ECA: 5**

**Jackie Gruet – Elementary Teacher**

B.S., Baptist Bible College (PA), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education: 5      Years at ECA: 1**

**\*Chad Hibbard – Secondary Teacher**

B.S., Baptist Bible College (PA), Secondary Education, Social  
Studies, Bible  
**Years in Education: 8      Years at ECA: 3**

**Tom Jones – Secondary Teacher**

B.RE., Baptist Bible College (PA), Bible, Theology, Missions  
ThB., Baptist Bible Seminary (PA), Theology, Greek  
**Years in Education: 7      Years at ECA: 7**

**\*\*Jeannie Jontz – Secondary Teacher**

3 B.S., Maranatha Baptist Bible College (WI), Elementary  
Education  
**Years in Education: 15      Years at ECA: 6**

**Chris Knafel** – *Elementary & Secondary Teacher*  
B.S., Baptist Bible College (PA), Health, Physical Education  
**Years in Education:** 8      **Years at ECA:** 8

**Annette Landrum** – *Secondary Coordinator*  
B.S. Cameron University (OK), Elementary Education  
M.S., Indiana University, Education  
**Years in Education:** 23      **Years at ECA:** 11

**Allen Lollis** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.A., Westmont College (CA), Liberal Studies  
**Years in Education:** 12      **Years at ECA:** 12

**Jane Metz** – *Secondary Teacher*  
B.S., University of Dayton (OH), Business Administration  
**Years in Education:**      **Years at ECA:** 1

**Victoria Minder** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Bethel College, Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 2      **Years at ECA:** 2

**Janice Murphy** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.A., Bethel College, Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 39      **Years at ECA:** 10

**Amanda Newland** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Indiana University, Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 4      **Years at ECA:** 4

**Angela Overmyer** – *Talent Development Coordinator*  
A.A., Bethel College, Soc. Sciences  
B.S., Indiana University, Special Education  
M.S., Indiana University, Special Education  
**Years in Education:** 13      **Years at ECA:** 1

**Ryan Pease** – *Elementary & Secondary Teacher*  
B.S., Bob Jones University, Computer Science  
**Years in Education:** 10      **Years at ECA:** 7

**Amy (McGill) Reinking** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Southwestern Baptist University, Elementary/Middle School Education  
**Years in Education:** 1      **Years at ECA:** 1

**\*Karla Rieth** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Miami University (OH), Art Education  
**Years in Education:** 5      **Years at ECA:** 2

**\*Alice Roberts** – *Secondary Teacher*  
B.S., Manchester College, Home Economics  
M.A., Ball State University, Home Economics Education  
**Years in Education:** 22      **Years at ECA:** 7

**Kim Ryall** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.R.E., Baptist Bible College (PA), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 18      **Years at ECA:** 15

**Linda Shubert** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.R.E., Baptist Bible College (PA), Elementary Education  
M.S., Nazareth College (NY), Elementary Education  
M.S. Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary (MI), School Administration  
**Years in Education:** 36      **Years at ECA:** 17

**Tim Shubert** – *Secondary Teacher*  
B.A. Cedarville College (OH), Secondary Education, Math  
M. R. E., Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary (MI), School Administration  
**Years in Education:** 28      **Years at ECA:** 17

**Barb Stahly** – *Secondary Teacher*  
B.A., Asbury College (KY), Secondary Education, French  
**Years in Education:** 36      **Years at ECA:** 20

**Mary Stayton** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Bryan College (TN), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 31      **Years at ECA:** 5

**\*Rachael Strickland** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.R.E., Baptist Bible College (PA), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 4      **Years at ECA:** 4

**\*Brenda Thompson** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Faith Baptist Bible College (IA), Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 13      **Years at ECA:** 8

**Linn Yoder** – *Elementary Teacher*  
B.S., Grace College, Elementary Education  
**Years in Education:** 9      **Years at ECA:** 5

## STAFF

**Jose Aguilar** - *Custodial Staff*  
**Lily Aguilar** – *Custodial Staff*  
**Kathy Beerbower** – *Lunchroom Aide*  
**\*Bonnie Blessing** – *Volunteer Coordinator*  
**Cyndi Brown** – *Lunchroom Aide*  
**Bob Burden** – *Foundations in Personal Finance instructor*  
**Ruth Cline** – *School Nurse*  
**Shannon Crowe** – *Custodial Staff*  
**Sally Fair** – *Lunchroom Aide*  
**Jim Flora** – *Maintenance Supervisor*  
**Lori Gibson** – *Food Service Supervisor*  
**\*Kristin Gill** – *Admissions & Advancement Assistant*  
**Sharon Gingerich** – *Talent Development Aide*  
**Kelli Harrington** - *Receptionist*  
**Sue Hills** – *Pre-K Aide*  
**Sue Hochstetler** – *Lunchroom Aide*  
**\*Crystal Hoover** – *Lunchroom Aide*  
**\*Rose Lashmit** – *Library Aide*  
**Jed Long** – *Foundations in Personal Finance instructor*  
**\*Virginia McGuire** – *Talent Development Aide*  
**Deb Morgan** – *Business Assistant*  
**Donna Rabe** – *Talent Development Aide*  
**Jerrie Sheckler** – *Elementary & Directors' Assistant*  
**Sue Snyder** – *Administrator's & Campus Pastor's Assistant*  
**Teresa Swart** – *Spanish instructor*  
**Dan Varner** – *Custodial Staff*  
**Dianne Walsworth** – *Secondary & Guidance Assistant*  
**\*Cathy Weaver** – *Development & Donor Relations Assistant*

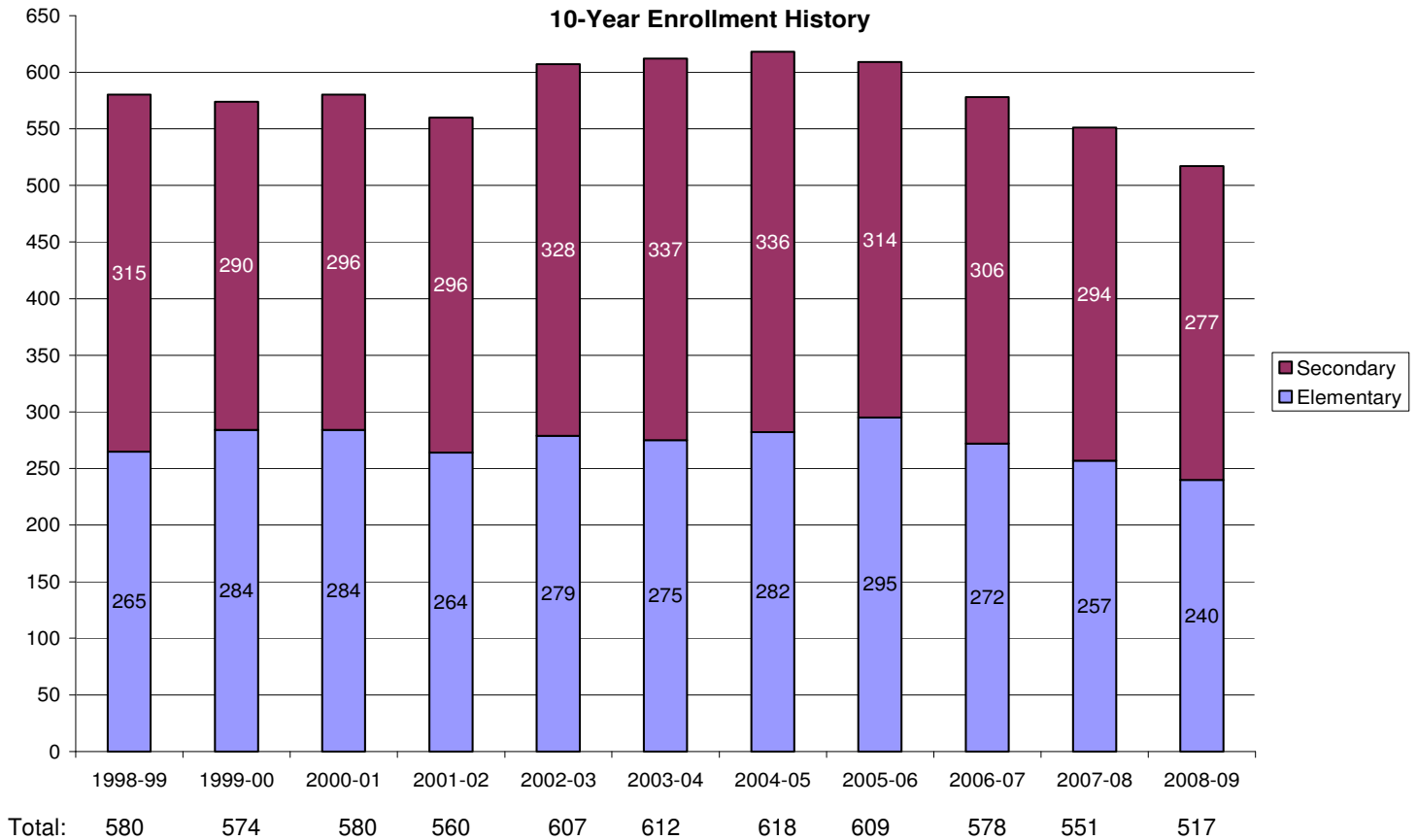
\*Left ECA at the end of the school year.

# CHAPTER TWO: REPORTS

## ENROLLMENT

The official enrollment for the 2008-09 school year was 517. This represents a 4.7% decrease from enrollment for the preceding year. The class numbers break down as follows:

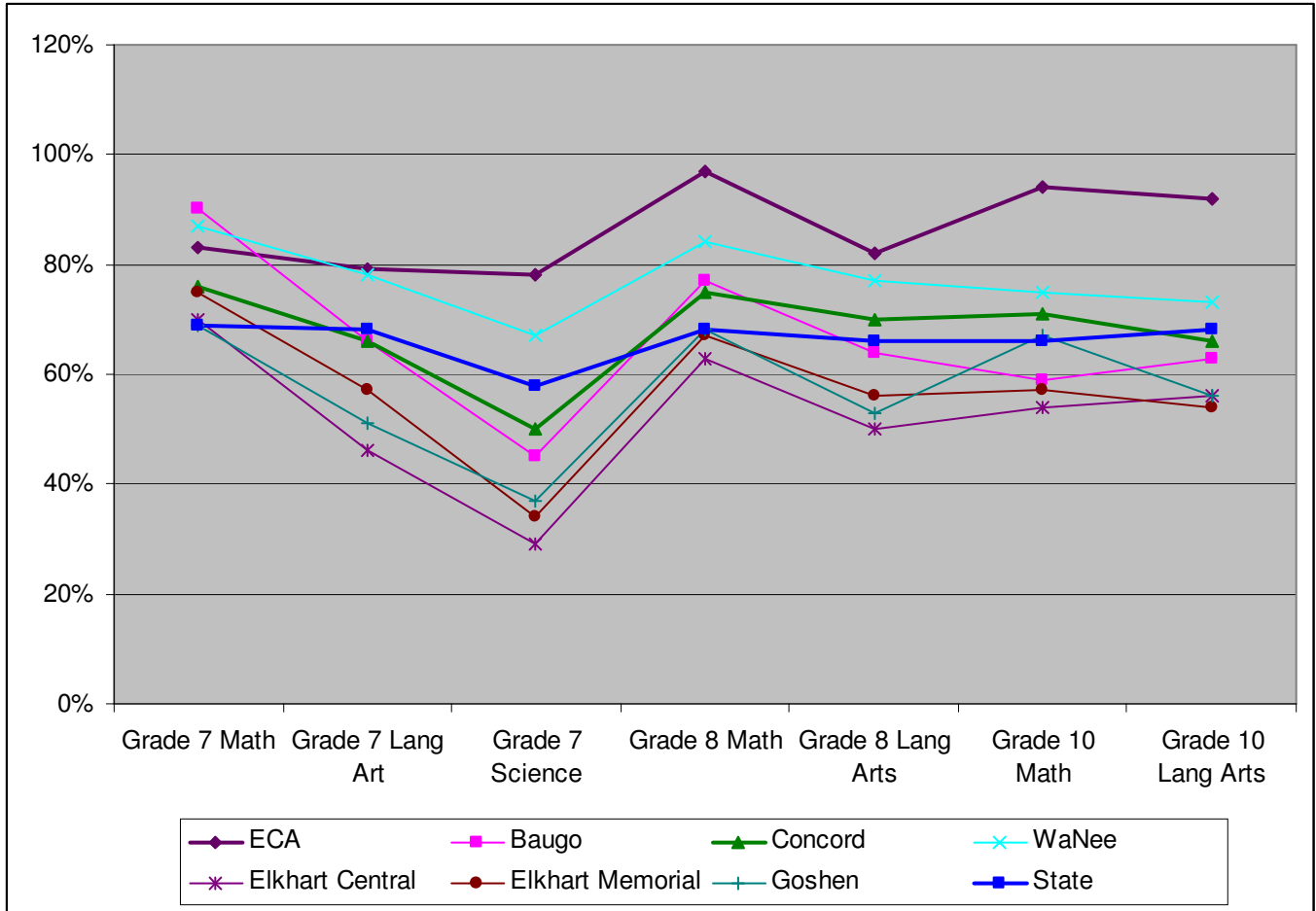
2008-09 ENROLLMENT				
PK	22		6	37
K	27		7	42
1	34		8	44
2	29		9	54
3	38		10	46
4	29		11	48
5	34		12	43
			Total: 517	



\*02-03 jump in enrollment: Christian Center School, located in South Bend, closed;  
 \*\*05-06 through 07-08: higher than usual tuition increases, resulting in increased teacher pay; larger than average graduating classes also contributed to a decrease in enrollment;  
 08-09 decrease in enrollment: unprecedented unemployment in Elkhart County (nearly 20%), affecting many of our families.

## ACADEMICS

### 2008-09 ISTEP TESTING - LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOL COMPARISONS



### *Where do Eagles go when they leave the nest?*

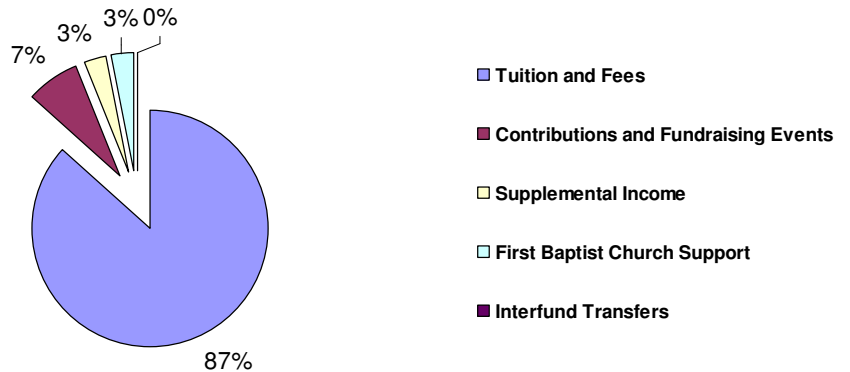
	# of students	% of class
4-year Christian colleges or universities	17	42.5
4-year state or private universities	19	47.5
Post-secondary institutions	2	5
Other plans (work or undecided)	2	5
Number of students in the Class of 2009	40	

### **ALUMNI**

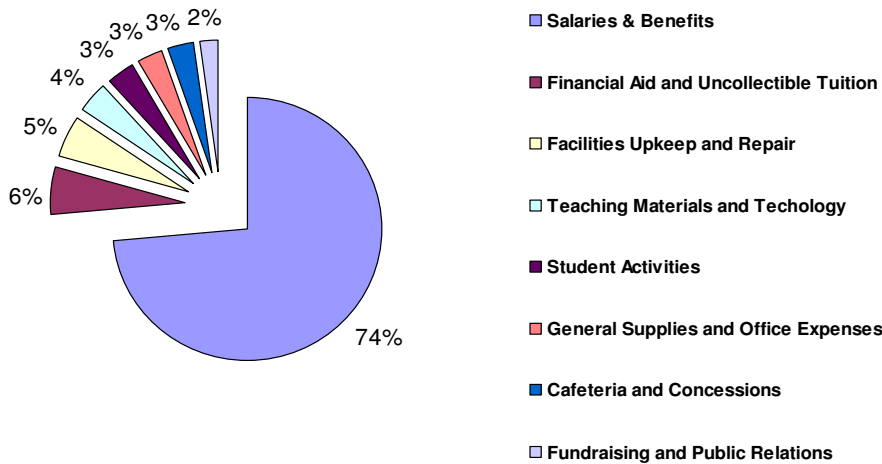
With the graduation of the class of 2009, the number of ECA alumni stands at 1,330.

## FINANCES

### 2008-09 REVENUES



### 2008-09 EXPENSES



**GENERAL FUND AS OF JULY 1, 2008**

**\$112,724**

**REVENUES**

Tuition and Fees	\$2,716,891
Contributions and Fundraising Events	\$222,375
First Baptist Church Support	\$101,500
Supplemental Income	\$90,780
Interfund Transfers	\$3,584

**Total 2008-09 Revenues**

**\$3,135,130**

**EXPENSES**

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,468,902
Facilities Upkeep, Repair and Depreciation	\$194,049
Financial Aid and Uncollectible Tuition	\$168,842
Teaching Materials and Technology	\$138,533
Student Activities	\$111,277
General Supplies and Office Expenses	\$99,198
Cafeteria and Concessions	\$98,488
Fundraising and Public Relations	\$78,335

**Total 2008-09 Expenses**

**(\$3,357,624)**

**GENERAL FUND AS OF JUNE 30, 2009**

**(\$109,770)**

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## ATHLETICS

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### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR – MR. MIKE RYALL

#### FALL SPORTS

**MS Volleyball** – Coach Sherrie Biddle  
Assistant Coach Emily Elrod  
Season Record: 7<sup>th</sup> grade team: 3-10  
8<sup>th</sup> grade team: 6-8

**JV Volleyball** – Coach Rick Billman  
Season Record: 15-3

**Varsity Volleyball** – Coach Mike Ryall  
Assistant Coach Laura Hibbard  
Season Record: 27-8

#### IHSAA Sectional Champions

**MS Girls Soccer** – Coach Liz Ryall  
Assistant Coach Dave Freel  
Season Record: 1-11

**Varsity Girls Soccer** – Coach Jeremy Hiler  
Assistant Coach Abby Schumacher  
Season Record: 5-12

**MS Boys Soccer** – Coach Adam Reinking  
Assistant Coach Bill Zuber  
Season Record: 3-9

**JV Boys Soccer** – Coach Jon Badskey  
Season Record: 5-2

**Varsity Boys Soccer** – Coach Sherwin Simon

Assistant Coach Tyler Schumacher  
Season Record: 8-9

**MS Cross Country** – Coach Allen Lollis  
Season Record: Boys: 2-3  
Girls: 3-2

**Varsity Cross Country** – Coach Peter Casaletto, Girls: Ally Mattner  
Season Record: Boys: 9-4  
Girls: 5-8

#### WINTER SPORTS

**MS Girls Basketball** – Coach Bethany Zeeb  
Assistant Coach Dave Freel  
Season Record: 7<sup>th</sup> grade team: 0-5  
8<sup>th</sup> grade team: 10-10

**Varsity Girls Basketball** – Coach Jim Bigler  
Assistant Coach Jeff Ryall  
Season Record: 2-18

**MS Boys Basketball** – Coach Adam Reinking  
Season Record: 7<sup>th</sup> grade team: 3-8  
8<sup>th</sup> grade team: 4-10

**JV Boys Basketball** – Coach Chad Hibbard  
Season Record: 10-8

**Varsity Boys Basketball** – Coach Drew Ryall  
Assistant Coach Mark Jones  
Season Record: 7-15

#### CHEERLEADING TEAMS

**MS Cheerleaders** – Coach Amanda Gibson

**JV Cheerleaders** – Coach Jason Branin

**Varsity Cheerleaders** – Coach Lori Gibson; Assistant Coach

#### SPRING SPORTS

**Varsity Track Club** – Coach Peter Casaletto  
Assistant Coach Allen Lollis  
Season Record: Girls: 2-4; Boys: 3-3

**Varsity Girls Softball** – Coach Rick Billman  
Season Record: 3-15

**Varsity Boys Baseball** – Chris Lemert  
Season Record: 10-11

**Varsity Golf** – Coach Scott Yoder  
Record: 10-7

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## FINE ARTS

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### FINE ARTS DIRECTOR – MR. BRET DEARDORFF

**Elementary Music Program** – *Michelle Beyler, Director*  
Students in grades 1-6 performed in school concerts;

#### CHOIRS

**Middle School Choir** – *Michelle Beyler, Director*  
Elective for grades 7 and 8; participated in ACSI Music Festival in the spring;

**Concert Choir** – *Michelle Beyler & Bret Deardorff, Directors*  
Elective for grades 9-12; competed in ISSMA organizational contest;

**Chamber Choir** – *Bret Deardorff, Director*  
Elective for grades 9-12; performed in churches, school concerts, caroling at local malls, and ministered at Shepherd's Ministries for adults with developmental disabilities in Union Grove, Wisconsin

#### BANDS & ORCHESTRA

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band** – *Bret Deardorff, Director*  
Performed in school concerts;

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band** – *Bret Deardorff, Director*  
Performed in school concerts;

**Middle School Band** – *Bret Deardorff, Director*  
Elective for grades 7-8; Performed in school concerts; participated in ACSI Music Festival and ISSMA organizational contest;

**High School Band** – *Bret Deardorff, Director*  
Elective for grades 9-12; competed in ISSMA organizational contest; participated in ISSMA organizational contest;

**ECA Orchestra** – *Laura Johnson, Director*  
Performed in school concerts;

#### FALL DRAMA

**The Jury Room**  
*Performed on November 20, 21, and 22*  
*Directors: Joe Elrod and Jason Branin*  
*Producer: Bret Deardorff*

#### SPRING DRAMA

**Rutherford Wolf/The Ransom of Red Chief**  
*Performed on March 10, 12, and 13*  
*Directors: Joe Elrod and Jason Branin*  
*Producer: Bret Deardorff*

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## DISCIPLESHIP

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CAMPUS PASTOR – DREW RYALL

It was a year of new beginnings. Eighty-eight 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders attended the first-ever Middle School Retreat at Bair Lake Bible Camp in Jones, Michigan. The two day retreat enabled students and teacher to connect with each other and with Christ as a direction was established for the year.

During Spiritual Emphasis Week in March, Ross DeMerchant (Campus Pastor at Heritage Christian in Indianapolis) challenged our student body to ignite their hearts towards God. The week also included an evening parent seminar and community church gathering with 300+ students from area youth groups.

Student body spirit grew as well as all grades cheered on ECA's basketball teams in the first ever Midnight Madness Rally, designed to connect elementary-age students with the varsity basketball teams. (Pastor Drew is the varsity boys' basketball coach.)

We continued to build on great foundations laid during the previous year. The seniors traveled to the Dominican Republic to minister in villages and small churches.

Chapel is a time of celebration and focus for ECA. The teachers continue to maximize their opportunities to prepare students for life.

To help our elementary students impact the local community, ECA continued an 11-year relationship with Faith Mission of Elkhart by providing shoe boxes containing various toiletry items for the residents. The entire school supplied over 2,100 cans of food for Faith Mission during the Christmas Gifts for Christ food drive in December.

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## TALENT DEVELOPMENT

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TALENT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – ANGELA OVERMYER

The Talent Development staff works individually and in small groups with 23 students throughout the school day to help them achieve their full learning potential. The Talent Development program, based on the Parable of the Talents in Matthew, allows teachers to focus on a student's learning strengths to enable them to master core material at their own pace. Additionally, the Talent Development staff is a resource for teachers endeavoring to help all their students reach their full learning potential.

Angela Overmyer, an ECA graduate and a teacher with 14 years of experience in special education classrooms, moved seamlessly into her new role as the Talent Development Director.

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## TECHNOLOGY

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TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR – MITCH HASSE

Mitch Hasse's regular responsibilities of maintaining and upgrading 150 computers on campus were also enhanced by the following:

### Hardware

- Twenty-five new PCs replaced PCs in the Elementary Lab that were originally installed in the summer of 2002. All 15" monitors were updated to 17" flat panel screens in this lab as well.
- A new Cisco router was installed to better manage internet traffic
- Two switches were replaced with managed GBit switches to better handle/monitor internal network traffic.
- A refurbished higher volume copier replaced a four-year-old printer/copier with over 1.7 million copies/prints.
- Two Xerox Color Phaser 8560 printers were added.
- A wireless access point was installed in the Conference Room area for Internet access.

### Software

- Microsoft Office software was installed in the elementary lab for training lower elementary students.
- The e-mail spam filter was switched from a hardware solution to an outside vendor solution.
- New nursing software was installed for the school nurse to enhance her ability to track student health issues.
- The second year of STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) focused on competing in a robotic competition sponsored by an international organization called F.I.R.S.T (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The elementary team competed in Elkhart with a robot built with Legos and did well. The secondary team competed in two regional tournaments and earned 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 22 teams. They also received the Innovators Award for the unique arm design they used.



## • CHAPTER THREE: LOOKING FORWARD – 2009-2010

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### STRATEGIC PLAN

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As we move forward as a ministry, we are relying on God to bring the increase. Whether it is an increase in enrollment, fundraising, or spiritual impact, it is all contingent on the hand of Almighty God! Let me share a few items from our school's strategic plan to give you a snapshot of where we would like to be 2-5 years from now.

#### Objectives of ECA Strategic Plan

- 1. Develop Long-Range Financial Plan:** As we look to the future, a long-range financial plan is needed to help get the school on more solid ground financially. Though the cost of education is rising at a record pace nationally, the Finance Committee is working on this important plan to meet the needs of our school program and yet keep an ECA education accessible to as many families as possible.
- 2. Update Curriculum Guides:** We have been adding state standards to our curriculum. We now need to update our curriculum guides to include state standards and fully integrate them with Biblical truth.
- 3. Plan to Strengthen Parent/School Partnership:** Because parents are the primary educators of their children, it is imperative that we develop new ways to strengthen our relationship with the home. Various individuals are helping the administration with this important initiative. Part of strengthening this partnership is holding some information sessions to increase parent understanding of our ministry.
- 4. Plan to Better Care for our Teachers:** Because our teachers are our greatest resource, we are working on ways to better care for our teachers. Thank you to those who participate annually in our Teacher Gift drive to bless our teachers with a bonus at Christmas time. We are looking at other cost effective ways to express to our teachers how much we value them.
- 5. Implement Student Recruitment Plan:** Because enrollment is the lifeblood of ECA, we are developing a student recruitment plan to increase our enrollment by the fall of 2010. We hope that you will continue to do your part by telling people you know who would benefit from an ECA education. We are all promoters of our school. Tuition credit is available for active recruiting of new students. A strategy is being considered to tap into the ever-growing homeschool market.
- 6. Plan to Increase Pre-K Enrollment:** The future of our school is found in the early grades. The completion of our early elementary bathrooms will certainly help boost our appeal to prospective parents. Other ideas are in the works to increase our Pre-K enrollment by 50% in two years. We are even considering opening a satellite Pre-K campus on the north side of Elkhart to serve as a feeder into our main campus.