

MUSTANG MESSAGE



January
2026



Changing vs. Improving by Nathan Reeves

There are two extremes. On one hand, you have the folks who are just happy to be alive. They show up to work, do what they're told, and go home. These people live by the motto, "Just leave good enough alone," and they have zero drive to excel and improve.

Those on the other side of the spectrum feel the need to change every season. Take the fashion industry, and you will see a change in style every time sales begin to plummet. Whether it's oversized faux fur coats, quarter-zip sweaters, or sneakers with suits, if a product remains the same, it's stale and "so last year." Sometimes, change is for change's sake. The problem comes when a Christian school adopts either of these philosophies.

First of all, realize **there's a difference between core values and tactics**. Core values are summarized in your mission statement; tactics are the day-to-day. Core values are the why; tactics are the how. Core values are where you're going; tactics are how you get there. For vacation, you might be going to Atlanta, but there are many ways to get there – car, plane, bus, etc.

At BRCA, **our core values are knowledge and character**. Our mission statement says that our purpose "is to give each student an excellent education and a desire to do right." Our tactics include Bible class and chapel, our Character Development Program, daily handshakes, spiritually-minded teachers, Abeka, The Amazing Shake, etc. Seth Godin says, "You don't define yourself by the tactics you use." While we try to constantly improve our tactics, our core values will remain the same and define who we are.

Secondly, realize **there's a difference between changing and improving**. While change might be a virtue to the fashion industry, we must not feel pressure to change what we do just to "keep things fresh." At BRCA, we are driven to improve what we do, but only to fulfill our mission more effectively.

There's a difference between core values and tactics and between changing and improving. **We are determined not to change our core values but to constantly improve our tactics in order to fulfill our mission**. As we look to the new school year, we hope you'll understand and appreciate our core values better, and we look forward to working with you as we try to instill knowledge and character in each of our students.

CURRENT EVENTS

Jan. 7 TACS Check #1

Jan. 12 Report Cards

Report cards are emailed home this day. So check your inbox!

Jan. 12 Parent/Teacher Meeting

Because communication is so important, please make sure you attend to hear how your child has done this quarter and how they can improve next quarter.

Jan. 14 TACS Check #2

Jan. 16 Middle School Color Rush

Middle School students will wear as much of their team's color as possible at this full-of-fun day! And 5th graders get to join us!

Jan. 16 Culottes Check

Jan. 19 MLK Day

No school! Enjoy the day off.

Jan. 21 TACS Check #3

Jan. 22 & 23 Parent Days

Plan on attending Parent Day and get a glimpse of what your Elementary child has been learning all year. Bring your child to class and stay until it ends at 8:45. We hope you can join us & all the other parents!

Jan. 23 Middle School Sneak Peek Day

4th-5th graders & their parents get to see what Middle School is all about!

Jan. 30 100th Day (K4-2nd)

Jan. 30 Backwards Day (3rd-8th)

Don't forget to wear your clothes backwards!

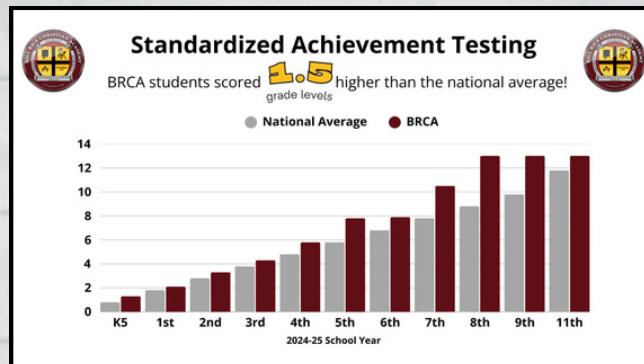
Character Trait of the Month

RESPONSIBILITY

Definition: being accountable for your actions; fulfilling your duties

Examples:

1. Do what you say you will do.
2. Make your room job a priority, and do it to the best of your ability each day.
3. Never respond with an excuse ("I was just...").



January - Reenrollment Month

It's been an incredible year so far, but we hope you'll be back with us next school year! At BRCA, we greatly value knowledge & character, and we're never satisfied with our students' progress. The Abeka curriculum is a spiral curriculum—each year builds upon the previous year. BRCA students average 1.5 grade-levels higher than the average student taking standardized testing. And there's so much more character training to be done as well. Each teacher has their own unique take on each trait they teach. All this to say...we'd love to continue serving your family! Reenrollment information will come home soon.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Sofia Zimmerman: Sofia has shown integrity all month by choosing to do what is right no matter the outcome. She is a great example of obedience to others in the classroom. Way to go, Sofia!

Penelope Ferrand: Penelope is honest, even when she may get in trouble. She strives to obey completely, following the spirit of the law. She has integrity!

Addy Burnett: Addy has integrity! She strives to tell the truth all the time! I am so proud of you, Addy!

Luca Davis: Luca has excellent integrity! She quickly confesses mistakes and works and behaves consistently regardless of who is around.

Josiah Shaub: Josiah has shown integrity all year! He does right even when the teacher or adult is not in the room. Josiah is consistent in taking accountability and does not blame others for his actions. Way to go, Josiah!

Caleb Sibilev: Caleb has shown integrity this school year. He wants to do right and is honest every time. In what he does. Keep it up, Caleb!

Oliver McConnell: Oliver shows himself to be trustworthy. He tells the truth even when he may get in trouble. He can be trusted with many things because he has shown himself faithful.

