

HUSKY PAW PRINTS

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NCA IS A "STUDENT-CENTERED" SCHOOL



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Principal

There are always some "buzz words" in the field of education. These days, we hear of words like STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), PLC (professional learning community), flipped classroom (solving problems in class and having students preview/review at home), 21st century learning, etc. Yet, the principle underlying education remains the same: schools must be about student success. Let me explain.

First of all, the very reason why schools exist is to support student learning and development. That is why NCA is so careful about selecting teachers and supporting their professional growth. Without effective and committed teachers, students cannot learn well. I am proud of NCA's teachers who are dedicated and focused on student success.

Secondly, all school programs--from academics to athletics to extracurricular activities--must focus on supporting student learning, achievement, and growth. That's the framework I apply when decisions must be made in regards to programs, clubs, sports, student organizations, or even field trips. We ask ourselves, "Will this [program/curriculum] improve student engagement and achievement?" We make our decisions based on that answer.

Thirdly, we do our best to understand student needs. We use student satisfaction surveys, informal input, class advisory group feedback, and parent satisfaction surveys to better gauge student needs. Of course, we cannot accommodate everything that students "desire," but over the years, we've made many changes to better serve the students. NCA is a responsive school. That's just part of our school culture.

Having said the above, I must add that NCA's commitment to student success comes out of our commitment to serve the Lord. NCA is a Christ-centered community whose primary mission is to educate, enable, and equip the Christian leaders of the next generation. We're called to serve our students, and that's why NCA is a student-centric school.

APOLOGETICSEVENT AT NCA

Do you know how to answers questions that atheists and skeptics raise? Do you know the basic tenets of the Christian faith? Have you had thoughts about who created the

universe, or how it came into existence? What about life's purpose or meaning? How should we live? And, what's after death? These are just some of the questions that will



be addressed at NCA Apologetics Event on February 23, 2018 at 7 PM.

This is an important event for all NCA students, parents, staff, and supporters. Why? Given that young people typically "walk away" from their faith between 12 to 20 years of age, it's critical to provide answers to their questions. They need to realize that there are rational and scientific answers to the "God questions."

There is no entrance fee for this event, so parents, please **bring your family, and invite friends and neighbors to this event.** You might also want to contact your church pastors and leaders about the event, and encourage youth groups to participate.

So, NCA, come and be informed, empowered, and encouraged! There will be an "open mic" Q&A time as well at the end.

Dr. Craig Hazen is the Director of Christian Apologetics Program at Biola University, and Dr. Sean McDowell serves the same department as Associate Professor.

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Boys' Volleyball season will officially kick off on February 24. Huskies, come cheer our high school volleyball team at as many away and home games as possible!

We anticipate a highly competitive season as our boys will compete against schools in the International League (which NCA will be a full member of starting from the 2018-19 school year).



The Boys team will be coached by Ms. Jasmine Mckenzie, a coach with lots of playing and coaching experience.

So, if you're interested, be sure to come out to the tryouts!

Go, win, Huskies!

Date	Opponents	Time	Location
2/27	Pacific Lutheran	3:30	Away
3/1	Le Lycée	6:00	Away
3/5	St. Monica	4:00	Away
3/13	Southwestern	4:00	Away
3/15	Waverly	TBD	Away
3/26	Int'l Lycée	4:00	Away
3/28	Le Lycée	3:00	Home
4/12	Southwestern	3:00	Home
4/17	Mesrobian	4:00	Away
4/24	Waverly	2:30	Home
4/26	St. Monica	3:00	Home
4/30	Mesrobian	3:00	Home
5/1	Pacific Lutheran	2:30	Home

SPRING OPENHOUSE

NCA's Spring Open House took place on January 25. A highlight of the night was hearing from current parents and students about their positive experiences at NCA! Here, we have an excerpt of a testimonial shared by our very own, Kelly Ma (9th):

"My favorite thing about NCA are the teachers and their never ending encouragement and support. [Even] if you are not strong in a certain task or subject, the teacher will always encourage you because they believe everyone can do it; some people just need to put in a little more effort. I personally experienced this in art class last week when I struggled to complete a sketching assignment. The teacher helped me and

encouraged me to complete it. At the end, my sketch looked pretty good.

Another thing I like about NCA is that it is fun. Though the academic program is challenging and stressful at times, it is still possible for us students to have fun.

NCA's academic program is remarkable. Students are challenged to be hard-working and give their maximum effort. I'm happy and grateful to be a part of this school's community and look forward to making more great memories here."

Other students, Jehane Djedjro (10th), Maria Kong (8th), and Kailey Kim (3rd) also shared their thoughts. Great job, Huskies!



SENIOR GRAD TRIP

The Class of 2018 will be traveling to Oahu, Hawaii for their graduation trip from March 1st through 5th. This year, they will be staying at a beautiful 17-acre ranch home in the north shore. Get excited, seniors! And, thank you, parents, for making this happen! Aloha and Mahalo!



CALENDAR ITEMS

February

- 1/31-2/2 Winter Camp @ the Oaks
- 8 Kids Space Museum (K-3)
- 9 Museum of Tolerance (11th)
- 15 Middle School Dance (4-8th)
- 16 ACSI Writing Festival
- 19 Presidents Day (School is Closed)
- 23 Apologetics Event (Dr. Craig Hazen & Dr. Sean McDowell)

March

- 1-5 Class of 2018 Grad Trip to Hawaii
- 6 Wheaton College Symphony Visit
- 9 Disneyland (K & 1)
- 11 Daylight Savings ("Spring Forward")
- 16 Math Olympics
- 26-30 Passion Week