



**NOBLE
ACADEMY**

EXPLORE • UNDERSTAND • ACHIEVE

CHALLENGER

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1



WHAT'S INSIDE?

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High School Drama
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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20 - December 31
School Closed for Winter Break

Monday, January 3
Students and Staff Return

Friday, January 7
Homecoming

Tuesday, January 25
College Fair

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

LAURA MLATAC, HEAD OF SCHOOL

May your walls know joy, may every room hold laughter, and every window open to great possibility.

-- Mary Anne Radmacher

This quote is my wish for the Noble Academy learning community this year! As the weather outside is frightful, the walls inside Noble Academy are warm, cozy, and active. The buzz around the building is music to my ears from students learning to manipulate the SmartBoards, to Kindergarten students skipping from one class to the next for the first time in the school's history, to the clanking of the metal ramp that lines the modular units as we anticipate construction to begin this school year. As Dr. Seuss says...."Oh, the places we will go!" Noble Academy is a true testament of what can happen when people believe in the mission!

Thank you!

It was truly astonishing and rewarding to open our doors as Noble Academy this fall while honoring the founding practices that make our learning community unique. I invite you to take a few moments to embrace how much our school has grown and the gift we are all blessed with in our lives, Noble Academy.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

LINDA HALE, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We have had a very busy this fall moving the Expansion Project forward and the launching of our Capital Campaign. Thanks to the countless volunteer hours put in by the members of the Expansion Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee we are excited about our progress.

Expansion Project

Our goal for the Expansion Project is to improve the facilities and the programs at Noble Academy. Right now, we are focused on the facilities so that we will have the space for the new programs.

CSC Construction has been retained by the School to complete the design and engineering plans for submission to the City. They were able to complete the civil portion of the plans at the first of November. The architectural and final engineering plans are nearly completed and will be submitted to the City for approval in the next couple weeks. Once we have obtained all of the necessary permits, we will be able to break ground.

Capital Campaign

Thanks to the wise investment strategies and generous donations to the School during the silent phase of our campaign we have raised \$1.8

million dollars towards our \$2.5 million Capital Campaign goal.

With \$700,000 more to raise, we have begun the public phase of our campaign. Our first event held for our campaign was the Parent and Grandparent Expansion party in November. At this event, we were able to share our plans for the new facilities and programs and answer questions about the projects. We are also in the planning stages of hosting an Alumni Expansion Party in January. If you were unable to attend one of our Expansion gatherings and you would like more information, please contact Laura Mlatac, our Head of School.

You will be receiving a Capital Campaign brochure in the mail, and we hope you will join us by giving to this important project. Receiving 100% participation from our Board, parents, grandparents, alumni, friends, faculty and staff is our goal.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of the entire Board, we would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to 2011 and the new opportunities that lay in store for Noble Academy!



Board Chair Linda Hale with Mary Horan (Jackie, 4th), President of the PFA at the Parent-Grandparent Party



Erick and Joan Aydelette (Evan, 10th), Laura Mlatac, and Mike and Kristy Garner (Austin, 9th)

EXPANSION UPDATE

LINDA HALE, CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, MICHELL KIRKPATRICK, VICE-CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, LAURA MLATAC, HEAD OF SCHOOL

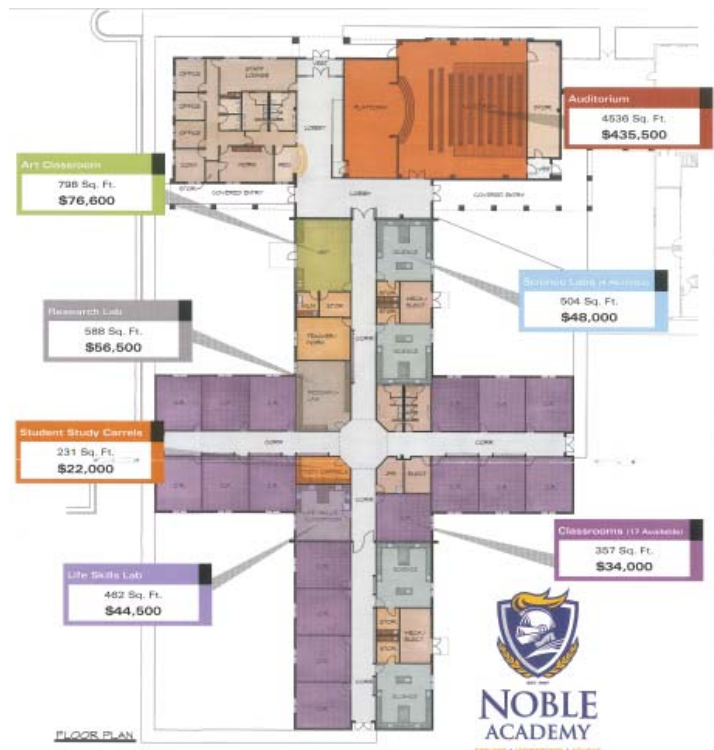
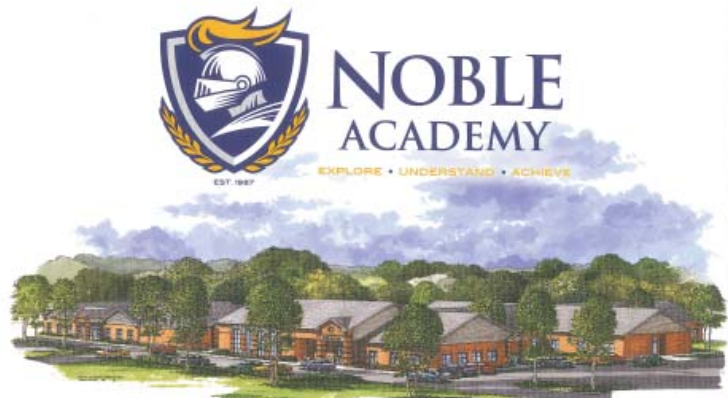
Noble Academy is focused on delivering a truly remarkable experience for students with learning differences. For many, this is the first time their challenges have been addressed by teachers who “get it,” teachers who are trained to recognize, assess and work through learning differences. Our day school and community programs have been a source of hope and promise for so many families, bridging the gap between the desire to learn and lifelong results. In fact, we now draw students from ten or more counties, as well as Virginia.

In order to provide solid programs, a school needs facilities tailored to the goals of the programming. It’s no secret Noble Academy is long overdue for a facilities expansion. We desperately need to upgrade our environment to continue to expand the programs and offerings that are essential to unique educational model.

With this in mind, the Board of Trustees has approved a campaign to raise \$2.5 million. Due to wise investment strategies and generous supporters, the school has already has 70 percent

of the needed funding. We invite you to join us in making a difference in the programs and facilities of Noble Academy, thereby taking ownership in the future of the education of students with learning differences.

In a recent on-line survey, Noble Academy’s stakeholders used the following words to describe the school and students: integrity, determination, spirited, caring, dedication, loyalty, and achievement. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, leadership, faculty, staff and students, please consider partnering with us and donating to this worthy effort. Your noble act of generosity will help us move forward with the facilities and programs expansion that turn learning differences into learning opportunities.



ALUMNI UPDATE

PARKER MARICICH AND MARTHA ANN (SUTTON) BERNARD, 1997

Lots of things have changed since Parker Maricich and Martha Ann (Sutton) Bernard graduated from (then) Guilford Day School in 1997. They both came back to visit this fall and were amazed at the growth that the school has experienced. The name change was surprising to them both, but they embraced the change as a benefit to moving the school forward in the community.

After she graduated, Martha Ann got her degree in Early Childhood at GTCC, after which she taught pre-K in the More at Four program. According to the FPG Child Development Institute's website, "The More at Four Program is North Carolina's statewide pre-kindergarten



Susan Hughes, who taught Parker and Martha Ann

initiative for at-risk 4-year-olds, designed to help children be more successful when they enter school. The purpose of More at Four is to provide a high quality educational program for at-risk children in the year before kindergarten entry."

Martha Ann truly enjoyed her experience teaching pre-K, so she has now gone back to school to get her degree in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Kindergarten). Even though it has been many years since she graduated, Martha Ann still feels that she is benefiting from her Noble Academy education. As a current student at UNCG, she still uses strategies such as making sure she sits in the front of the class and using a system to process and study her notes.

ANNUAL FUND

LAURA MLATAC, HEAD OF SCHOOL

One of the best ways to support the programs currently offered while giving the school an opportunity to increase our ability to enhance our services is donating to the 2010-2011 Annual Fund. As we continue to work towards expanding the programs that are essential to our unique educational model, the 2010-2011 Annual Fund will be crucial in this endeavor.

Due to the generous support last year, we were able to purchase a new mid-size bus, SMART Boards for every classroom, and new athletic uniforms for all teams. This was truly amazing, and we plan to build on this success. It is now time to add additional technology to each classroom to compliment the school's current ability to

facilitate the curriculum.

Primary and intermediate classrooms will receive Neo2 wireless keyboards that students use directly with the SMART Boards. Junior and senior high classrooms will receive sets of SMART Board "tools", such as SMART clickers. Monies raised will also be designated for professional development, tuition assistance, and extra curricular activities for students.

A HUGE thank you to all those who have already made a donation to the Annual Fund. Your noble act of generosity will help us move forward with turning learning differences into learning opportunities.

Martha lives in High Point and is the mother of a wonderful six year old boy.

Parker went to West Virginia University, who at the time had a very highly renowned and successful program for students with learning disabilities. When that program was prematurely disbanded, he ended up at Elon, where he graduated with a double major in business management and corporate communications. The summer before his last year of college he worked in manufacturing setting in China and now he is a sales rep with Flex Steel Furniture.

Parker was a member of the inaugural varsity soccer team during his time at Guilford Day School. He states that “we were very good, but we got in a lot of fights, so we ended up having to disband.” He was impressed with the wide offering of sports teams at Noble Academy today.

Parker appreciates his Guilford Day School education. “The teachers really embraced everyone’s own personality. They didn’t fit you in a box and make you learn like everyone else. They really embraced your strengths.”

He found the relationships with his teachers to be very motivating and benefited from the individualization of the instruction to each student. The flexibility for students to do things their own way also stuck out in Parker’s mind.

He also spoke about how attending Guilford Day School helped him learn to get along better with others. “You were going to school with kids from all different schools, so you were forced to understand different kinds of social situations than you were used to.” Parker was in town for the fall Furniture Market but resides in South Dakota.

Martha Ann and Parker were pleased to find out that despite the changes and the growth, Noble Academy remains a truly special educational setting where students with all types of learning styles and challenges can receive instruction that is perfectly tailored to their needs. We were very pleased to see these two 1997 grads, and always look forward to seeing our alumni and former students return to campus. We hope to see many of you at Homecoming and our special alumni event on Friday, January 7, 2011.

3RD ANNUAL ALUMNI VS PARENTS AND STAFF BASKETBALL GAME
5:30 PM

PIZZA PARTY
6:15 PM

VARSIY BASKETBALL
7:00 PM

HALFTIME FESTIVITIES
HOMECOMING COURT
INAUGURAL KNIGHTS BASKETBALL TEAM

ALUMNI EVENT
6:00 PM



NOBLE
ACADEMY

HOMECOMING 2011

FRIDAY JANUARY 7
SPEARS YMCA

WWW.NOBLEKNIGHTS.ORG

HOMECOMING 2011

We hope you’ll plan to join us for one of the most exciting nights of the year at Noble Academy!

Alumni, we’ve got a special reception planned in your honor.

Check our website for details.

Hope to see you on January 7!

NCAIS BIENNIAL TEACHER CONFERENCE 2010

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

When Noble Academy is closed for Professional Development, parents often wonder “what does that mean and why is my student home from school today?” On November 4 and 5, the staff of Noble Academy was able to participate in several professional development opportunities.

On Thursday, staff remained at school for The Kansas University *Paragraph Writing Strategy* workshop given by Dr. Dan Boudah of ECU. The Kansas University writing strategies are taught across the board at Noble Academy, so we offered the workshop to any new teachers or returning teachers who just needed a refresher.

Thursday evening, everyone traveled to Charlotte to attend the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools (NCAIS) Biennial Teacher Conference. The Healthy Living Committee planned a very fun teambuilding activity for the staff to participate in on Thursday night. Friday began with a keynote speech by internationally known educational consultant and author Rob Evans (Family Matters, The Human Side of School Change and Seven Secrets of the Savvy School Leader). Then conference participants had the opportunity to choose four sessions of their

choice from over 200 breakout sessions presented throughout the day by professional practitioners and NCAIS colleagues.

Eight Noble Academy staff members presented at this conference on a wide variety of topics, most of which included strategies for integrating technology into instruction. Hallie Rojas and Sterling Miller’s session was entitled Strategies for Building Math Confidence. Vicki Payne’s session was entitled Using Multimedia to Engage Students in the Science Classroom. Kay McMurphy’s session was entitled Karate Spelling, Multisensory Grammar, Story Stew, and Other Ideas. Erin Cawley’s session was entitled Differentiated Instruction. Susan Hughes’ session was entitled Teaching Students to be Strategic Learners. Matt Zigler’s session was entitled Using Online Resources to Promote Critical Thinking Skills in Art Education. Jennifer Aceves’ session was entitled Using GoogleDocs with Your Students.

All of the staff members returned from the conference excited to put into practice all of the new strategies and ideas they had learned.

HALLOWEEN AT NOBLE ACADEMY



Primary students Cameron Newell, Briggs Akin, Emma Carter, Will Brown, and Caleb DeBrew



Fifth graders Lauren Shaw, John Cooper, and Nick Corcoran

STATEHOOD CELEBRATION LOCAL POLITICIANS VISIT NOBLE ACADEMY

On November 22, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, and twelfth grade students celebrated the 221st anniversary of North Carolina's Statehood. Students in Mrs. Stell and Mr. Keel's social studies classes did projects on the history of NC and brought in many local food products including Cheerwine, Mt. Olive Pickles, Neese's Sausage, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, BBQ, goat cheese from Goat Lady Dairy and many goodies made with NC produce such as sweet potatoes, persimmons, pumpkins, and apple butter.

Students sent invitations to many politicians and were rewarded with the attendance of several politicians across many levels of government. Attending the Statehood Celebration were US Congressman Howard Coble, Greensboro Mayor William H. Knight, City Councilwoman Mary Rakestraw, City Councilman Zack Matheny, and County Commissioner Paul Gibson. Students were able to meet the politicians and talk to them about what they had learned about our state.



Seniors Colin Anderson and Keith Isley with Councilman Zack Matheny



Fifth grader Britt Oliver introduces herself to Councilwoman Mary Rakestraw and Congressman Howard Coble

NCAIS 21ST CENTURY TEACHING ACADEMY NOBLE ACADEMY TEACHER SELECTED



NCAIS Virtual is an educational consortium established by the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools to provide member schools with access to top quality online and blended learning resources. In addition to providing virtual education opportunities, this Consortium also offers professional development for 21st century teaching and learning. The 21st Century Teaching Academy is committed to professional development training and has selected seventeen teachers from NCAIS Virtual member schools to act as Master Teachers for this unique 21st century collaborative.

Our very own Erin Cawley has been selected to become a Master Teacher! Erin has always used technology in her classes and was insistent on receiving a SmartBoard in her classroom last year, even though the school's initial decision was to not place one in the outbuildings. Erin's enthusiasm towards and interest in educational technology makes her a wonderful candidate for this training opportunity. She will begin her training in January.

MASKED KNIGHTS DRAMA CLASS WINS AWARDS

The Noble Academy “Masked Knights” high school drama class competed in the North Carolina Theater Conference (NCTC) 2010 High School Play Festival in Washington, NC on October 29 and 30. The Masked Knights performed *4 A.M.*, a one act play for teen actors by Jonathan Dorf.

Junior Shawn Hardin won an Excellence in Acting award and drama teacher Sonja Kelley won the Creative Staging award.

The Masked Knights compete in both the high school and middle school NCTC competitions every year. The middle school class plans to perform this spring.

The 2010 high school drama class includes: ninth graders Shelby Andrews, Amy Stockard, and Kevin Williams, tenth graders John Shinn, Bryan Turner, Tyler Ray, Taylor Eagle, Evan Andrews, Michael Branson, and Evan Aydelette, eleventh graders Becca Balabanis, Shawn Hardin, and Matt O'Briant, and twelfth grader Jared Gasaway.

The Masked Knights also performed *4 A.M.* at Noble Academy on the evening of December 1. The performance was well attended by parents and staff, who were impressed by the talent they saw on stage.

NOBLE ACADEMY WELCOMES NEW TEACHERS

LAURA MLATAC, HEAD OF SCHOOL

I am very pleased to announce the addition of Ms. Danielle Fitzgerald, Ms. Shelley Causey, Mr. Paul Vernon, Mr. Jonathan Wallace, Ms. Aimee Picon, and Ms. Kim Burkhalter to Noble Academy's teaching staff. As the school grows and evolves, I have been honored to hire highly-qualified, experienced, creative, and sincere staff members to become part of Noble Academy's learning community.

Ms. Fitzgerald will be joining our Senior High Team and will teach all Spanish classes. Prior to moving to Greensboro, Ms. Fitzgerald taught at St. Francis Day School (Alpharetta, GA), a school that shares a similar mission. Most recently Ms. Fitzgerald taught Spanish 1, 2, and 3 at Northern Guilford High School in Greensboro. Ms. Fitzgerald has her bachelor's degree in Spanish and her foreign language teacher certification P-12.

Ms. Causey and Mr. Vernon will be joining our Junior High Team. Ms. Causey recently graduated from Appalachian State University with a bachelor's degree in special education. Ms. Causey will add her extensive knowledge of technology, specifically SmartBoards, to Noble Academy's learning community.



The Masked Knights showing off their personalities



Ms. Picon assists kindergartener Charlie Sherril as he writes on the SmartBoard



Ms. Causey utilizes the SmartBoard often in her PreAlgebra classes

Mr. Vernon was most recently a middle grades social studies teacher in Guilford County Schools. He received his bachelor's degree in history from Clemson and is currently completing classes for his North Carolina teaching license.

As our Intermediate grades continue to grow at a rapid pace, we are welcoming Mr. Wallace, Ms. Picon and Ms. Burkhalter to the team. Mr. Wallace began his career as a historical interpreter for Old Salem Museums in Winston-Salem and a supervisor for the Greensboro Historical Museum. After he discovered his passion for working with children, he returned to UNCG to where he completed his master's in elementary education. Mr. Wallace also holds a bachelor's degree in art.

Ms. Picon is the perfect teacher to help us

grow our primary and intermediate divisions, as she holds her bachelor's degree in special education and her master's degree in early childhood. She brings years of experience in establishing kindergarten classes, and we look forward to enhancing our technology in the lower grade levels as she shares her expertise in this area.

Last but not least, Ms. Burkhalter called Noble Academy home for many years while attending church here. We are very blessed to have her join our learning community. Most recently Ms. Burkhalter has been a Language Facilitator for Guilford County Schools. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and is currently completing her teaching license and pursuing her master's degree in special education at UNCG.

LACE

LET ACTIVITY CONNECT EVERYONE

The Healthy Lifestyle Committee has developed a month long health vigil to connect all members of the Noble Academy family. The committee is part of the School Improvement Plan and has arrived at the following objectives for their program:

Bring awareness to our individual health habits.

Develop a consistent yet varied individual health plan.

Learn to cooperate, encourage and respect all the possible ways to be well and live healthy.

Throughout the month of January, students, staff, and families will be encouraged to keep track of their daily activities in order to take enough "steps" to walk the distance around the world.

KNIGHTS ATHLETICS

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY COACH TIM MONTGOMERY

The 2010 Noble Academy Varsity Cross Country season was a nice blend of the old and the new. With the leadership of seniors Colin Anderson, Andrew Kirkman, and Dalton Collins and the emergence of junior high runners Adam Jones, Ta'Shaun Davis and Jaylon Smallwood, the season was quite a success. In addition to the above mentioned runners, junior Luke Crawford led the Knights to several strong finishes this fall. Despite competing with a nagging leg injury most of the season, Luke was Noble Academy's top finisher in 6 of our 7 meets this season.

Senior Colin Anderson had an outstanding season as well improving his time in every meet and was Noble Academy's top runner in a highly competitive seven team meet held at Guilford College on October 7th.

Seventh grader Adam Jones burst onto the scene with several strong finishes, impressing his coaches and teammates as well as drawing praise from opposing coaches and runners.

Congratulations to all members of the 2010 team for their outstanding effort and dedication.



The runners get ready to smoke their competition

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH DOUG LONG



Junior Erin Arnold prepares to serve

Our Varsity Volleyball team showed tremendous improvement during the 2010 season. Despite some early injuries to senior Rebecca Tysinger and seventh grader Sloan Hodges, the rest of the varsity squad pulled together well winning our first games in Noble Academy history.

Led by junior outside hitters Molly O'Keefe and Eden Halevy, the Knights continually improved from match to match. We had a strong presence from our middle blockers Amy Stockard, Erin Arnold and Anna Oates as well as great play from our opposite hitter Shelby Andrews. Seventh grader Hannah Wright made tremendous progress as a defensive specialist, serving an ace in our last match.

The Knights were very successful in running a 5 - 1 offense this year and much of the credit was due to the skill and play of junior setter Becca Balabanis. Becca took on the setting responsibilities and helped the Knights begin playing next level volleyball. With the improvements made this year, the Knights are looking forward to even more success in 2011.



Sixth grader Sydney Rhyne watches as seventh grade goalie Sam Coble defends the goal

JUNIOR VARSITY SOCCER COACH STERLING MILLER

In early September, an enthusiastic group of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls reported for their first soccer practice. Some had never played soccer before and many were seasoned veterans. A number of hard practices ensued, and then the first of the four regular season games was at hand.

The regular season ended with a record of one win, one loss, and two ties. The playoffs provided another opportunity to showcase the team's talents. The first playoff game was against Greensboro Montessori School (GMS) and resulted in a very hard fought contest with GMS emerging victorious, two goals to one. The consolation game was played against New Garden Friends School (NGFS), and Noble Academy outscored NGFS 4-0, thus ending a very good season with a third place finish in the conference.



Eighth Grader Tanner Bost eludes a defender

JUNIOR VARSITY FLAG FOOTBALL COACHES STERLING MILLER AND ERIN CAWLEY

Following the fall soccer season, athletes from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades began practice for an exciting flag football season. The team would play four games in the regular season and then participate in the playoffs.

The first playoff game was played on December 6th, at Greensboro Montessori School (GMS), on an incredibly cold day. The Knights entered the game with a 2-2 record, the same as GMS. Both teams were playing for an opportunity to play for the championship. In spite of the cold, the teams played a hard game trading scores. In the end, the Knights emerged with a 20-14 win and a berth in the championship game. Scoring for Noble Academy was eighth grader Jackson Fields. What a game!

On December 9, the Knights played the undefeated New Garden Friends Team who had beaten us in our first game of the season, 30-19. This game was a different story as the Knights played a terrific game against a very tough team and lost in the final seconds, 19-18, earning Noble Academy a second place finish in the league. Scoring for the Knights were eighth graders Tanner Bost, Jackson Fields, and Owen Tomaszewski.



Go Knights!



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WE OFFER STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES
A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN A
SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY CAN REACH
THEIR HIGHEST POTENTIAL.



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