MUSTANG MESSAGE

October 2026







iPad, the Babysitter by Nathan Reeves

We've all seen it before – the child who needs a babysitter named iPad! They can't sit down or be still or be quiet unless iPad is at hand. They've been trained (most likely unintentionally) that to be good, they must be amused by iPad. It's weird...iPad's been around so much, she's more like another child than a babysitter!

It's been an important question over the last decade – how much screen time is too much?

All of us parents remember the pre-smartphone days. While we had other things to deal with, a constant pull to a screen wasn't one of them. Most of us had TVs, but there was so little content that it never made sense to be in front of it for hours on end. Binge-watching wasn't even a thing! So instead, we went outside and rode bikes, made up games, got dirty, and used our imaginations!

What would Jesus think about all this screen time our kids have today? Warren Weirsbe said about Jesus' parables, "Jesus explained the kingdom, not by giving a lecture on theology, but by painting pictures that captured the attention of the people and forced them to ***use their imaginations and think***." (emphasis mine) If Jesus wanted these adults to use their imaginations and think, don't you think he wants kids to do so as well? Think about it – kids using their imaginations can strengthen their ability to think!

Here are some questions, not to make you mad, but to make you think. Do your kids watch TV on the way to school? Do they get an iPad as soon as they get in the car? Do you have a screen time limit? Are there areas in the house where screens cannot go, such as bedrooms and the dinner table? Do you have a filtering app on all your devices? Are you intentional, or do you default to iPad, the babysitter?

If you didn't like the answer to any of these questions, make a change. And when you do, intentionally replace it with something constructive. Get a baseball and some gloves. Dust off your bike and join them. Eat supper at the kitchen table (that's actually what it's for!).

When I ask kids about what they're going to do when they get home or over the weekend, very rarely do I hear playing outside. Over the years, students have told me everything from watching a movie (every day after school!) to playing video games all day on Saturday (literally)! I have also noticed that the kids who do play outside and have little to no screen time seem to be the better-adjusted kids.

So, is it time to give iPad the pink slip? And how much screen time really is too much? I think you should use your imagination.

CURRENT EVENTS

Oct. 5 BOOK-IT Begins!
BRCA is participating in the Pizza Hut-sponsored BOOK-IT! reading program to motivate our K5-5th graders to read at home. This program motivates children by rewarding them for their reading accomplishments. Each teacher will set a monthly classroom goal. When your child reaches his or her goal, he or she will receive an award certificate for a free one-topping personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut. You do not have to buy anything - you can even get it to go! Our desire is to work with you to cultivate a love for reading in your children. BOOK-IT! ends March 31.

Oct. 9 4th Grade Sneak Peek Day
Our 4th graders & their parents will get a "sneak peek" of what it's like to be a Middle Schooler!

Oct. 16 5th Grade Shadow Day
Our 5th graders get to shadow a Middle School student on this exciting day!

Oct. 13 Spirit Day
This is the day to wear all things BRCA! Get your Merch Store orders in now!

Oct. 23 Sports Day
Attention sports fans of all ages: Sports Day at BRCA is one fantastic day! All BRCA students and teachers will be dressed up in their favorite sports attire all day long, and at the end of the day, we will have class sporting activities!



Oct. 26 Report Cards
Report cards are emailed home this day. So check your inbox!

Oct. 26 Parent/Teacher Meetings
Come to see how your child has done this quarter and how they can improve for the next quarter.

Nov. 5-6 Men's Challenge
Men, we hope you'll join us for this excellent time of food, fellowship, and spiritual growth. If you've never come, you should try it this year!

TACS - Training A Consistent Servant

I know, TACS actually stands for Tennessee Association of Christian Schools, but TACS also provides avenues to Train A Consistent Servant. These avenues are the fine arts and Bible competitions. Training is extremely important, and all of us train our children—whether for good or bad, whether we like it or not. Training takes place every day at home and at school. **We like TACS competition because it's all about training.** Not only does it take much training to be ready for the first level of competition in February, but if the competition is used properly, it also trains the student for his future. You see, any student can start two nights before a project is due and "put something together," but what is that habit training our young people to do when they are adults? Does it not train them to procrastinate and then quickly do a job, even if it is not done to their potential? Does it not train them to only turn things in on time (and sometimes late), as opposed to early? Proper training truly is important. If parents will train their child to work on his area of competition early and a little at a time, he will learn the following vital life lessons: **hard work takes time, do the job right the first time, complete jobs early, a job well done brings satisfaction, and many others.** It is important that we train our children this way in every area of work — chores, homework, studying, etc. For if we are not consistent in our training, we deteriorate the foundation upon which we desire to build; we train our children to be inconsistent. This school year, whether your child is in the TACS competition or not, map out a plan to consistently train.







Bill Rice Ranch 101

by Nathan Reeves

This year we're going to do a series of articles on the different ministries of the Bill Rice Ranch. I hope this will give you a wider panoramic view of what the Bill Rice Ranch really is.

Wil Rice IV often says, "The Ranch is people, not buildings, programs, or activities." It takes literally hundreds of people to make this ministry run, and several of them live and work right here on the Ranch in these departments we will highlight. So as you learn, remember that it is people that make up the Bill Rice Ranch.

The first ministry we will highlight is **Bill Rice Bible College**. A friend of the Ranch once said that it would be great if we could replicate the training we do for our summer staff but increase its duration and frequency. So for years, the Rices talked about starting a Bible college to do just that. Now Bill Rice Bible College is finally a reality. In its thirteenth year, we have twenty-six students from around the country who take classes throughout the day and also get practical training during Ranch events. We offer four degreed programs: a 1-year Bible Certificate, an Associate's in Christian Studies, a Bachelor of Biblical Studies, and a Bachelor of Christian Education. This is a college where young people can grow in the Lord and sharpen their skills for serving Him. Mr. Nathan McConnell (Oliver & Walter's dad) is the director and is being greatly used to help these young people.

PIX OF the MONTH



















Character Trait of the Month

RESPECT

Definition: to honor; to have consideration for
Examples:
1. Always respond with "Yes ma'am" and "No ma'am"
2. Never interrupt. If you need to walk between two people who are talking, first try to go around or say "Excuse me, please."



Middle School Student Highlight with Addy Brasier

Miss Potter: What is your favorite thing to do?
Addy: I like to hang out with my family!
Miss Potter: What is your favorite thing about your parents?
Addy: When I have a test coming up and I feel like I can't do it, they say, "You can do this!"
Miss Potter: What do you like most about your teachers?
Addy: They are fun to hang out with!
Miss Potter: What is your favorite thing about Middle School at BRCA?
Addy: I like the jackets because they mean "good character."
Miss Potter: What do you hope to do when you grow up?
Addy: I will let God decide that!

AMEN!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Remi Scott: Remi has shown excellent obedience in the classroom all month! She obeys the first time completely and with a happy heart. I am so proud of the example she sets for others!
Logan Gustin: Logan has obeyed every day since the beginning of the year. He received a sticker daily for following the rules. That's Impressive!
Hannalee Strickland: Hannalee has set a wonderful example of obedience in our classroom! Way to go, Hannalee!!
Kaia Forte: Kaia always obeys completely and immediately, with a big smile! I'm proud of you, Kaia!
Zuri Agwatu: Zuri has shown consistent, quick obedience since the first day of school! She has a cheerful attitude and does not hesitate to obey the first time. Keep being a great example of obedience, Zuri!
Holly Estep: Holly is quick to say "Yes, Ma'am" and obey quickly. I can count on her to follow what she is supposed to do. Keep obeying the Lord, Holly!
Sophia Perez-Muniz: Sophia is obedient and follows directions, procedures, and rules. She does it immediately, quickly, and with the right attitude! Keep it up, Sophia!

APOBLEPO ACES
604

HYPAKOUO HAMMERHEADS
553

TELEIOS TORNADOES
458