

Crossroads Connection

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www.crossroadslongmont.org

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From the Principal's Desk: Crossroads Earns Accreditation!... by Connie Nourse

We are excited to announce that **CROSSROADS SCHOOL IS NOW FULLY ACCREDITED!** This "seal of approval" from the National Association of Private Schools means that we are eligible for additional grants and that our transcripts and diplomas carry an automatic legitimacy with other schools, colleges, and employers. We are excited about this external validation of the quality of our work with students!



Accreditation is only one more change in a series of changes at Crossroads. According to Merriam-Webster "change" means to make the form, nature, content or future course of something different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone.

It is hard to believe we are in our 5th year! This year, as in years past, we have experienced change. At Crossroads that change is a sign of growth, improvement and maturity! This year at Crossroads we have a teaching staff of four for the first time, and we started the year with 22 students.

God continues to bless the school in so many ways! Businesses and individuals are consistently "catching the vision" and joining us in the mission of Crossroads, and Central Presbyterian (the church where we are housed) continues to amaze us with their generosity, love and support of the school!

As we head towards the Christmas season and the celebration of Christ's birth I am holding my breath in anticipation of more changes God has in store for us!

Remediation at Crossroads School... by Remedial Specialist Joanna Topham

Crossroads seeks to meet students where they are, no matter what that level is, and educate them from there. This year, we have bolstered our remediation program to help us do just that, with specialized intensive remediation as well as additional directed remediation work by teachers and volunteers.

In addition to our very small class sizes, remediation sessions are another avenue where a student's individual needs can be addressed through specific teaching techniques, in order to fill learning gaps and teach new skills and strategies so that students are able to experience maximum academic achievement.



Areas of remedial focus for each student are determined by individual test results. Each student's test results are evaluated and specific goals are developed for remediation. These educational goals might include reading skills or comprehension, the organization of time, space and sequential concepts, writing, math problem solving skills and application, or handwriting. Time is spent each week in individual sessions, seeking to fill the learning gaps with a goal to produce a learning foundation that is stronger and more solid. Students are able to experience greater academic success when they are building upon a solid learning foundation rather than one that is sprinkled with gaps or holes.

It is our hope at Crossroads to provide each student with individualized, learner-appropriate interventions in order to strengthen their academic core for lifelong learning. We are excited to see the results of this renewed focus on individual remedial work, and we are grateful to Longmont Ford, Faith Community Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, and an individual donor for specific grants to make this program possible this year!

November Food & Fellowship: Freddy's, Tue, Nov 18, 4-9 pm; 2250 Main St.



Come enjoy great burgers and custard, and hang out with Crossroads staff, students, and friends! Mention Crossroads at the register and the school will receive 20% of all proceeds. We hope to see you there!

Spotlight On: New Crossroads Teachers ... by Konni Keuter



Exciting changes continue to happen at Crossroads School. This year, along with opening the doors with 22 students, Crossroads welcomes two new teachers.

Jamie Szalaj (pronounced "shalay"), our new Language Arts teacher, followed in her mother's footsteps when she became a teacher. Recently graduated from University of Colorado, Boulder, Ms. Szalaj has an English degree and wants to someday pursue a Masters in both English & Education. She is passionate about at-risk teens and especially likes that Crossroads is a faith-based school. Ms. Szalaj believes that students need to have faith in God and trust in his will and power to help them succeed. She states, "I feel that if I can change one student's life and encourage others, then I have done my job". That mission is already evident in Ms. Szalaj's classroom. We are excited to welcome her to our staff!

Currently pursuing a masters degree in counseling, Kelley Johns joins Crossroads as our new history teacher. Mrs. Johns has always had a heart for at-risk kids. She has worked with at-risk teens at Young Life Ministries alongside her new husband, as well as at Heritage House, a safe-haven house for teenage girls. She is no stranger to the nuances of helping youths succeed and is very excited about the opportunity to teach at Crossroads. "I believe that kids have the ability to participate in their own education if teachers will meet them where they are," says Mrs. Johns. It is wonderful to see her put that philosophy to work in the classroom.



Crossroads is pleased to welcome these two new teachers and to witness the relationships already being built with students. With our current staff of two full-time teachers, two part-time teachers, a full-time administrator and a part-time remediation specialist, we expect another outstanding year!

Investment ... by Board Member Howard Nourse

(in vest' ment) anything in which a resource is placed with an expectation of a return

Often in Crossroads' communication we ask people to invest in the school's mission to 'Change our world ... one life at a time.' Without question such requests are for financial investment. The work of Crossroads takes place in an environment that includes financial expenses. Salaries, teaching materials, insurance, and other costs all combine to drive the annual budget. Beginning five years ago with a minimal operating budget and financial resources provided by friends and acquaintances, Crossroads has carefully and modestly grown the budget by 10% each year. And each year the number of individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations investing in Crossroads has increased as well. In the past year 153 sources invested financial resources as partners in the school's mission.

We absolutely need and appreciate the financial support of so many ministry partners. But there are other ways to invest in the mission of Crossroads. The work of the school is also dependent upon many who volunteer their time and talent. Some assist in the maintenance of the church facility that the school leases, and others help in the weekly take down and set up of rooms used by Crossroads during the week and the church on the weekend. Many of the classes like art, drama, and cooking are led by qualified volunteers. Over 187 people have invested their time and talent during the five years of Crossroads to date.

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is there is your heart also." When our time, talent, and/or treasure are invested in the mission of Crossroads, our hearts will also be filled with concern for the staff, students and families. That heartfelt concern is the motivation for many friends of Crossroads to consistently lift up the school in prayer. Prayer that broadly and specifically seeks God's involvement in the lives of the teachers, families and volunteers. Through newsletters, emails, and personal contacts, the school keeps investors informed about the challenges and accomplishments at Crossroads.

Investors are critical partners in the work of Crossroads. They invest their time, talent, treasure and influence with an expectation of return – to 'change our world...one life at a time.'