



STAS GAZETTE

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2017

Sharon Temple School promotes excellence in academic and Christian growth through the collaborative efforts of church, community, home and school



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Education Day	April 22
Open Enrollment 2017-2018 Begins	April 22
Bay Area Youth Federation	May 6
Graduation Ceremony	June 1
School Year Ends	May 31

THERE IS NO DOUBT that the condition of the world is rapidly declining. Young people, especially, are vulnerable to the social decay. Violence, drug use, rampant sexuality, and an attitude of disrespect plagues the youth. Whenever discussing these societal ills, a common statement is uttered: "it all started when they took prayer out of public schools". I respectfully disagree. The problem didn't start when society took Christian prayer out of public schools; the problem started when Christian parents took their children out of Christian schools.

"For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:5-7). "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8).

It was never God's intention for the world to raise our children. That burden He has placed squarely on the shoulders of Christian parents and the Christian community. Fortunately, there is the Sharon Temple Adventist School and the

Sharon Temple Child Care Learning Center. Christian parents should want their children in a school that offers Christian prayer. At Sharon Temple, not only are the children taught how to pray by the dedicated staff, but the staff pray for the children. Parents shouldn't wait until their child is school age to enroll them either! The Child Care Learning Center is designed so that even if children are just learning how to crawl, they can be taught how to crawl towards Jesus.

With a rigorous educational system that exceeds many secular institutions, the investment in Christian education is not only the logical choice, it is the only choice that is in harmony with what God commands.

*Submitted By: Elder Christopher Kady
Sharon Temple SDA Church*

From our School Board Chair—Elder James

Hampton.... Has God ever failed us?...No he has not!.. For the 2015-2016 our school enrollment was 13 students. With the many blessings God continues to provide for us,

for 2016–2017 school year, enrollment increased by 55%. That's right, we now have 29 students at STAS, who along with their parents have taken advantage and made many sacrifices to provide a Christian education for their child. Our goal for the

upcoming school year is to increase our overall enrollment by 15 students. We need your support to make this happen. Feel free to contact the school and speak with our administrative assistant to schedule an appointment to meet our staff and tour our facilities.



We have grown by **Faith**.....Leaning on the **Lord!**

Christian Education Provides Life-Long Benefits

By: Mark Tyler—Parent of student at Sharon Temple

Many ask the question, “**Why Christian Education?**”

A few days ago, I asked several students who transferred into Sharon Temple Adventist School from local public schools to compare their experience between public school and Christian Church school. In the students own words, here is what was said. “In public schools, teachers don’t care like they do here in a smaller Christian school like Sharon. Here at Sharon, teachers actually pray for you and with you when you don’t understand how to do things.” She continued with, “I get to learn about Jesus. I’m even able to go to the altar and pray when I need to.”

As the conversation went on, an eighth grader chimed in and said, “At Sharon, we get to talk about our faith. One, back in public school, I actually got in trouble for talking about Jesus.” As I listened, the children’s excitement grew as they continued giving reasons for why they enjoyed Sharon Temple over their public school counterparts.

They recalled blessing of God’s faithfulness and favor towards them. They recounted things prayer for and miracles delivered. They reminisced on how God had healed the sick when they prayed for them at the altar. They recounted how God had allowed students and parents to pass difficult tests. With one voice they blessed the Lord for every miracle remembered.

So why Christian education you ask? Because there’s nothing greater than knowing children get excited as they build their faith, prepare for the kingdom, and get ready to meet a soon coming Savior.

**Submitted By: Ms. Kimberly Watkins
Principal/Lead Teacher**

I believe in Christian education. I make no apologies for it. I don’t have to justify it. I am a proud product of it.

So when my daughter, who attends Sharon Temple Adventist School, was born there was never any doubt she would attend an Adventist school. The only question was: Which one?

I had my pick of two other Adventist elementary schools which were somewhat closer to my home in the Bay Area region of the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

I know and understand that there are other schools nearby run by other Seventh-day Adventist conferences. And I believe members of those conferences should support their schools. But I believe members of the Allegheny East Conference, and particularly those who attend church in the Bay Area should support the Sharon Temple Adventist School.

I know some will argue that it costs too much money. Today, most things of any real quality do. Although paying for Christian education is never easy, and always requires sacrifice, I believe it provides life-long benefits. I know from personal experience.

I began my education at the now-defunct Modern Miracle Seventh-day Adventist School right here in the Bay Area. The school was a collaboration

between the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Newtonville, NJ, and the Seashore Seventh-day Adventist Church, at that time located in Atlantic City about 30 miles away. I lived in Atlantic City.

My brother and I got up before 5 a.m. We were out the door by 6 a.m. My mother drove us 40 minutes to a Newtonville church members house where we waited until school opened, because my mom had to drive past her job to drop us off and then make it back to work at 7a.m. That took commitment, both on my parents’ part and on our part. And yes, it was expensive—from the tuition, to the gas, to the money she paid the church member to look after us for an hour or two. But it was worth it.

During the school day, in addition to reading, writing and arithmetic, we learned about the law of God, the 10 commandments and moral accountability. Perhaps more importantly, we learned to think critically, take responsibility for our actions and to never sacrifice our personal integrity.

Although the building has been shuttered for more than 30 years, the truths that we learned and the values we developed there live on—just as the truths and values taught at the Sharon Temple Adventist School, will live on in the lives of the students who grace its halls.

Support Christian education and support the Sharon Temple Adventist School.

When school-age children are introduced to Healthy eating, oftentimes they will show signs of being dissatisfied. Not the students of Sharon. On a weekly basis, Elder Thad Ferebee and his wife, along with Mrs. Lynne Rollins-Smith have been preparing meals and teaching our students what God requires of us to partake for our daily nutrition. The students love the “Haystack” and delicious desserts. Thank you from the students of Sharon Temple.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God” KJV





Ricardo Sotilleo—Class of 2016

GAZETTE: How has Christian education impacted you spiritually, socially, academically and physically?

Ricardo: Spiritually it has helped me to build a stronger and closer relationship with God, socially in picking my friends whose character resembles Christ, academically in making sure I mastered my subjects and understand topics better.

GAZETTE: What was your most enjoyable moment at STAS?

Ricardo: Being inducted in the Junior National Honor Society.

GAZETTE: After graduating from STAS, how prepared were you for the next level of education?

Ricardo: I was well prepared. Currently maintaining a 3.45 GPA. My schedule is like going to college.

GAZETTE: What influence and encouragement did your parents provide?

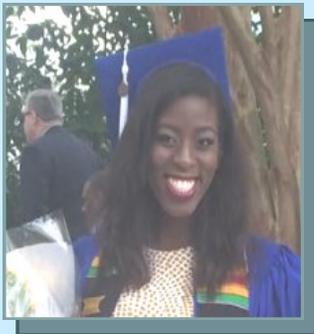
Ricardo: Reminding me that I can do all things in Christ.

GAZETTE: What words of encouragement do you have for students of STAS?

Ricardo: Christian education is good for you in the long run and helps you get more closer with Christ.

GAZETTE: What is your overall career plans?

Ricardo: I plan to become a Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon.



Brianna Williams—Class of 2008

GAZETTE: How has Christian education impacted you spiritually, socially, academically and physically?

Brianna: Spiritually, it kept me in an environment where I could openly learn about my faith and be around others with the same belief outside of church. Socially, it allowed me to have a core group of friends who I grew up with from age 4 until 14, and beyond, who will be part of my life for a long time. Academically, I was able to get one-on-one attention from teachers in a small environment which helped foster my learning, and physically, I enjoyed all the different activities.

GAZETTE: What influence and encouragement did your parents provide?

Brianna: My mom really wanted me in an environment where I could thrive, and Sharon Temple was a good fit. Whatever way she could, while I was there, my Mom helped out from chaperoning to substituting and helping with fundraisers.

GAZETTE: After graduating from STAS, how prepared were you for the next level of education?

Brianna: I think I was prepared. More focus on History and ability to read more books and writing papers.

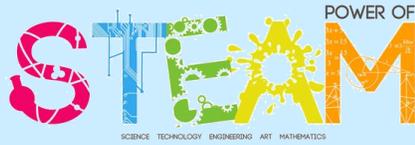
GAZETTE: From a career perspective, what are you currently doing? How has STAS influenced that decision?

Brianna: I am currently finishing my graduate studies at Syracuse University to further my career in Journalism. STAS has influenced that decision by allowing me to see and understand from a young age the affect of how communities work and the differences in communication styles.



Local Winners:

- 1st—Siegfried Howell, Jr
- 2nd—Stephaun Morris
- 3rd—Michael Dada



**2017 AEC STEAM Fair Winners
From Sharon Temple**



- 1st Place Lillian Tyler 3rd Gr. Div.
- 3rd Place Marcus Husbands-Rogers 4/5 Gr. Div.
- 3rd Place Siegfried Howell, Jr. 7/8 Gr. Div.



SHARON TEMPLE ADVENTIST SCHOOL

2001 N. Washington Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
Phone: 302-428-0216
E-mail: Sharontemple@comcast.net
Sharontempleschool.org

School Board

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ms. Kimberly Watkins | Principal/Lead Teacher |
| Pastor Thaddious Privette | Interim Pastor |
| Elder Thad Ferebee | Head Elder |
| Ms. Cynthia Poole | AECO Representative |
| Elder James Hampton | Chair/Treasurer |
| Elder James Harrison | Vice Chair |
| Mrs. Gertrena Hoxter | Secretary |
| Mrs. Sophia Sotilleo | Home & School Leader |
| Mrs. Robin Collins | Marketing Liaison |
| Ms. Jamila Jones | Fundraising Leader |
| Mrs. Nellie Moore | Asst. Fundraising Leader |
| Ms. Joanne Grier | Church Representative |
| Pastor Melvyn Hayden | Mt. Zion SDA Church Rep. |
| Mrs. Denise Hayden | Mt. Zion SDA Church Rep. |

School Faculty

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ms. Kimberly Watkins | Principal/Lead Teacher |
| Mrs. LaRhonda Howell | Teacher |
| Music/Technology/Spanish | Mrs. Kerri Williams |
| Math Instructor | Mr. Carl Wilkerson |
| Teacher's Aide | Ms. Angela Bannerman |
| Administrative Assistants | Mrs. Shirley Pritchett |
| | Ms. Sheena Quarles |
| Custodian | Mr. Melvin Matthews |
| Volunteers | Ms. Joyce Showell |
| | Elder Thad Ferebee |
| | Mrs. Annette Ferebee |
| | Mrs. Carolyn Rollins-Smith |
| | Mrs. Mary Prettyman |

Content provided by:

Mrs. Robin Collins, Elder Chris Kady, Elder James Hampton, Ms. Kimberly Watkins, Mr. Mark Tyler, Ricardo Sotilleo and Brianna Williams