

## **Lake Norman Christian School and Grace Covenant Academy to Combine Middle Schools in 2009-2010**

Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, Grace Covenant Academy, the Christian Pre-K to 7th grade school affiliated with Grace Covenant Church in Cornelius, will unite its middle school with the independent, non-denominational Lake Norman Christian School. This partnership is designed to strengthen faith-based educational offerings in the Lake Norman area. The combined middle school (Grades 6 – 8) will have an anticipated enrollment of 70 students and will operate as Lake Norman Christian School.

Bill Averkamp, Lake Norman Christian School Board Chairman said, “This partnership continues to build an enhanced educational opportunity for the children of the Lake Norman and surrounding communities. Lake Norman Christian is breaking through traditional denominational differences, and we expect this partnership to demonstrate what can be accomplished when Christians of all denominations come together to do God’s work.”

Leaders at Grace Covenant Church, which helped in developing many of the initial philosophical foundations employed by Lake Norman Christian, are confident that the partnership will provide excellent educational, social and spiritual development opportunities for area middle school students, while enhancing their families and the community.

Pastor Farrell Lemings, Lead Pastor at Grace Covenant Church, said “The Board of Directors of Lake Norman Christian School has done a phenomenal job of developing a quality middle school. I feel it complements our own and as we move forward in this partnership I am confident that together we will continue to build a superior program that will serve our students and the families of the Lake Norman community.”

In addition to its current elementary school and the combined middle school on Lake Norman Christian’s Huntersville campus, the transition will coincide with the school’s 9<sup>th</sup> grade expansion. The school expects 200 students to enroll in grades K-9 for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Additionally, the school plans to add one grade each year, culminating with full K-12 offerings by 2012. Grace Covenant Academy will continue to offer Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grades at its Cornelius campus.

