

May 14, 2010

Dear ACS Family,

As my son nears his high school graduation, I reflect back on the last 18 years. It's been a time of ups and downs. For the most part, we have wonderful memories and certainly, there are some things we would have done differently. However, sending Will to Alamance Christian School was the best direction we could have possibly sent him in. We looked to God daily as we "parented" this boy. We leaned even harder on Him during the teen years, and ACS is undoubtedly where He lead us. Of course, as humans, our hind sight is twenty/twenty. Oh! How we wish we had come here sooner!

The teachers, coaches and administration totally embraced will and our family. During a particularly difficult period in Will's tenth grade year, we felt God's grace extended to us through those at this school. They were a huge comfort to us and offered their services at every turn to attempt to get Will caught up. He had fallen behind in public school. He needed a regular daily routine in a close-knit setting and to consistently be held accountable regarding his assignments. The teachers and the principal worked tirelessly to get Will back on track. What a blessing they have been to us. This senior year has been a positive season for our son, as well as for my husband and me. Will has gained a strong sense of self, thanks to his experience here where Christian values are paramount.

I think it's also important to mention that the athletic program was a particular draw for us because of Will's love for basketball. We knew being a part of a school-sponsored team would be crucial for keeping him focused and motivated in his studies. This is one area where we still find it difficult to not look back with regret. My husband, John and I just try to remind ourselves that this journey has all been part of God's plan. Coach Jerry Bailey has been such a significant influence in Will's life in bringing out his very best like no other coach had been able to do previously. By the time the championship game rolled around, Will was at the top of his game. Again, we only wish our son could have had more years under Coach Bailey's tutelage—both on and off the court. Any young person that has the opportunity to work with Jerry Bailey will be blessed beyond words.

This particular phase in life is coming to a close. Will's time here has been an encouraging and joyous time for all of us. He made some lasting friendships and achieved some personal successes. Most importantly, he felt God's love through the special folks at Alamance Christian School.

Always with hope,
Becky Shepherd