



TACOMA BAPTIST SCHOOLS

June 15, 2019

Tacoma Baptist Parents, Students, and Staff,

In all the busyness of Senior Trip and graduation in combination with the timing of decisions made, I was not able to communicate the following to all of you in person, but I wanted to give you an update on some changes that have been made regarding Senior Verses at Tacoma Baptist. As you probably already know, graduating Seniors have been required to recite 125 verses in a single sitting as a culminating project in Bible class. This has been a requirement that has been very meaningful to some and very stressful to others. This Spring, I led a team of parents (of current students and Alumni), teachers, and Alumni (both recent and less recent), to examine this policy and explore ways that we can be accommodating to different gifts and learning styles while, at the same time, stay true to who we have been at Tacoma Baptist and honor our traditions. The following were our recommendations (*Italics are my explanatory comments, not originally part of the proposal*):

- We propose maintaining weekly/periodic Scripture memorization as an aspect of the TBS High School Bible curriculum. *(2019-20 verses are attached to this email)*
- We propose that, for students reciting Senior Verses, that they be given a choice between the traditional Senior Verses and a new set of verses and titles that collectively tell the story of redemption from Genesis to Revelation. *We made this recommendation with the belief that verses more focused on telling a story would be easier for students to learn and retain. These will be the verses I will assign for Junior year.*
- We propose giving students optional substitutes for Junior and Senior Verses.
 - Memorize a passage of Scripture and write a paper that discusses its meaning, theology, and application.
 - Write a paper or compose a presentation on an apologetic issue (e.g. problem of Evil, Jesus' Resurrection, Inerrancy of Scripture, etc.) or connecting theological truth with a current issue (e.g. abortion, environmentalism, immigration etc.).
 - Give a speech/sermon (as a chapel or in Bible class). This could be on a topic or passage of Scripture, or could be their testimony and a gospel presentation.
 - Allow for students to propose their own project that is comparable to current options.
- We propose that next year's seniors be allowed to complete the Senior Verses in the same way that this year's seniors did, but also be allowed to choose another option from the substitutes listed above.

We submitted our findings and recommendations to the TBS Board and, on Monday (June 10, 2019), our recommendations were approved and will be implemented for 2019-2020 school year. There is still some work for me to do on the optional substitutes - I will be fleshing these out in more detail later (as in length of paper, etc.). For next year, I would encourage students who were able to successfully complete their Junior Verses to continue to work on Senior Verses over the summer and plan on saying them to me in September. I believe this will be the best option for them going forward as they already have been able to recite 75 verse in a single sitting,



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adding 50 more (most of which will probably be familiar) is much easier than starting from scratch.

If you have any questions about how this will work next year, you may direct your questions to me and I will do my best to answer them. While I am emailing everyone, I want to say that I have very much enjoyed teaching you and your students this year and I look forward to this fall with eager anticipation of seeing God continue to work at Tacoma Baptist in the lives and hearts of our students. Having just witnessed the conclusion of a school year and watched our graduates walk across the stage was a reminder of the work of God that I've had the honor of being able to witness in the lives of these now High-School graduates.

May God bless you richly this summer!

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