

# Small but mighty: Joy High School training leaders

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Despite a fire that delayed the completion of a major facility, Joy Christian High School continues to grow – even thrive. Enrollment has tripled to 35 for the 2007-2008 school year.

Principal Steve Glandorf said earlier this year a welder's torch set fire to a wall in the youth center, which was nearly complete. As the school's future expansion called for removal of the wall, officials decided to begin the anticipated classrooms, locker rooms and weight room early.

"If everything goes well, in December, we will start building six classrooms," Glandorf said. "We'll build it as we grow. Right now we're waiting for God to work and provide the resources to continue our program."

For now, the high school and middle school operate in modular buildings, with plans for permanent buildings encircling the sprawling Community Church of



Photos by Jennifer Hernandez

**Freshmen Christy McHugh works on a vocabulary assignment in Jody Cecil's English class at Joy Christian High School on the campus of Community Church of Joy.**

Joy at the northwest corner of Loop 101 and 75th Avenue.

"Eventually, the whole campus will be transformed," he said. "The middle school is booming, with 150 enrolled."

Glandorf said those sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders would likely funnel into the high school and projected his enrollment at 100 students by the 2009-2010 school year.

But while numbers may

appear meager, high school is in full swing, with 20 freshmen, 13 sophomores and 2 juniors.

Joy Christian High School operates on a modified block schedule, with 84- and 55-minute classes. Teaching the required myriad of courses can be challenging with such a small number of students. For some classes, a few students take part in on-line learning through another Christian high school.

"Some of the juniors take classes with teachers on site," he said. "It's working out well."

Despite the small enrollment, the school has fielded several sports teams, including football, track, girls and boys basketball, girls volleyball, and cheerleading.

"Because of our size, students are getting the opportunity to participate and take advantage of their God-given talents," Glandorf said. "We're really excited."

Glandorf said the school's focus on mutual respect, working hard and sportsmanship could result in winning teams.

"Whether we win or lose, we'll do it graciously," he said.

But while sports teams are important, Glandorf emphasized a balance in curriculum and activities. The school offers a creative arts program that includes visual, theater and music arts, as well as a speech and debate team.

"We're trying to make students well-rounded," he said.

Evidence of the school's strong academic expectations takes place on Friday.

FAST, which stands for Friday Afternoon Success Time, a study lab in which teachers provide extra help for students who are earning 73 percent or less in a subject.

Another part of that balance, Glandorf said, is community service, to the tune of 20 hours required each school year. Students are

also expected to take part in mission work geared toward their age and grade level.

Freshmen begin close to home, working around campus. Sophomores branch out to help local organizations. In the planning stages are trips around the country for juniors, and international mission trips for high school seniors.

"When we have four levels of students, we'll have four mission programs," Glandorf said.

Earlier this week, students in two classrooms had heads buried in textbooks or pencils in hand, working on assignments.

That's a good thing, considering the high school's mission statement: "To build a new generation of Christian leaders prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing world."

These students have a lot of work to do.

For more information about Joy Christian High School, visit the school's Web site at [www.joyschool.org](http://www.joyschool.org), or call the school at (623) 362-3250.