

Bethesda Christian Academy (BCA)

Durham, NC

CHURCH:

Bethesda Baptist Church (BBC)

YEAR STARTED:

1995

CURRENT SIZE:

210 K-11 Students

HISTORY:

BCA started a kindergarten class in 1995 with the pastor overseeing the school. First grade was added the next year. In 1997, the church added an education building with four classrooms. The plan was to expand through grade five, but families wanted more. Over time, BCA opened a middle school and added 9th, 10th, and 11th grades.

MODEL:

BCA requires students to come from Christian homes, have a pastoral reference, and sign the school's statement of faith to be admitted. This limits the scope of students who could be accepted, but it increases how much the school draws families who want to move away from public schools.

KEY FACTOR FOR THE CHURCH:

A pastor who sees the school as an important part of the church will help the relationship between the two, especially if the church and school share space. Written documentation about who is responsible for what helps manage the relationship between the church and the school.

NOTABLE:

BCA includes students from about 60 different churches.

