

# Flying H Youth Ranch

370 Flying H Loop  
Naches, WA 98937



*“...turning the hearts...” Malachi 4:6 since 1962*

Dear Partners;

August 10, 2011

On September 22, 2011, Hope Academy at the Flying H Youth Ranch will host some visitors from the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC). This site review will hopefully lead to the school being fully accredited. Since Hope Academy came to the Ranch in 1985, it has annually received private school approval from the WA State Board of Education. Starting in 2008, the school applied for accreditation and has had provisional approval since that time.

The FHYR board stated their support for NWAC accreditation:

“The Board of Directors has voted unanimously to authorize the effort to achieve accreditation of Hope Academy with NWAC. We believe this will improve the quality of the Ranch program by providing improved transferability of school credits, both within and outside Washington State. This will enhance the value of our program to both the boys and their parents or guardians.”

When we first started this process, there was a concern that the Christian values that Hope Academy embraces might be compromised. We were fully assured that NWAC provides accreditation for both public and private schools, and that there would be no problems with our Biblical basis to education. Our teaching staff has been meeting over the last three years fulfill the requirements needed for accreditation. We have developed a mission statement and core values for Hope Academy which state:

## **Hope Academy Mission Statement**

**Hope Academy is committed to providing quality education with a Christ-centered focus. We pursue high academic standards in an environment conducive to learning. Our faculty is committed to helping each student reach their full academic, vocational and spiritual potential.**

## **Statement of Core Values**

We believe these values will provide the best educational experience for personal growth and maturity for all students at Hope Academy:

1. Focus on giving, receiving and applying truth as revealed in and interpreted through God’s Word.
2. View life from a God-centered, rather than a man-centered orientation.
3. Apply knowledge and training given in Christ-like attitudes, values, principles, and conduct.
4. Prepare students for life through developing skills in listening, reading, speaking, writing, and thinking critically.
5. Honor the uniqueness of how each student perceives and processes information.

6. Assess student learning by providing a variety of opportunities to demonstrate their achievement.
7. Use vocational training and academics to stimulate interest in career, college, and life-long learning.

This accreditation process includes our vocational classes and career planning. In addition to the academic areas, we have offered metal shop, wood shop, automotive, guitar, photography, personal fitness, and culinary arts. These are popular classes that our residents really look forward to each day.

The following assessment was made by Betty Herman, our FHYR board educational representative:

“The Flying H educational staff has recently completed the 2011 standardized testing for Flying H Hope Academy students, using the (SAT) Stanford Achievement Test for assessment. For several boys, who have taken the test at the Flying H for two successive springs, very solid, sometimes spectacular, progress can be documented.

The expected yearly growth has been present in almost every subject for all of these boys for that year’s period of time. For most of them the progress has been much more significant, with several of these achieving two or three years of progress in several subject areas during this one year period. We have also seen some scores indicating five and eight years of progress during that year in some academic areas!

This spectacular progress can best be explained by the nature of the Hope Academy program. Small class sizes, usually a maximum of six, easy and continual access to dedicated teachers for assistance, a math program customized to meet each student’s needs and progress, required diligence in students for completing school assignments, an availability and willingness of volunteers to provide tutoring when needed- all of these contribute greatly to the success of our students.”

We celebrate these achievements of our students and staff and thank the Lord for His direction and Grace in this area of the Flying H program.

**Bruce Gillespie**

Principal, Hope Academy

**Praises:**

- We were able to get a lot of wood for this upcoming winter without any injuries. (We had a few problems with vehicles but all in all the trips were successful)
- We had a group from Prosser here working on many different jobs over the weekend. We are so blessed by our volunteers

**Prayer Request:**

- As of the publication of this letter, the boys and 4 staff men are on the 8 day Survival hike. They will get back on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for the boys hearts as they study the book of Romans, that they would see their need for a Savior.

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