

# Students Soar at Eagle Nest Christian Academy

## Profile

### SCHOOL

**Name:** Eagle Nest Christian Academy  
**Location:** Panama City, Florida  
**Location Type:** Small city

### SWITCHED-ON ONLINE®

**Enrollment:** 35 students<sup>1</sup>  
**Grades Using Switched-On Online:** 3 through 12  
**Period Examined:** 2009-10 academic year

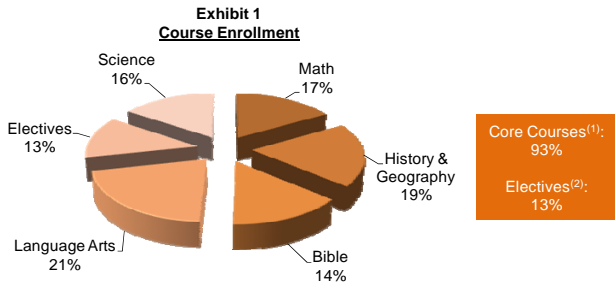
## Background

### SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Eagle Nest Christian Academy, located in Panama City, Florida, began operations in 2007. The academy provides an academically rigorous program that is in accordance with the requisites of the State of Florida. The ultimate goal of Eagle Nest Christian Academy is to provide a Bible-based learning environment that glorifies God and brings students to Christ. From its onset, the academy has chosen to use Alpha Omega Publications (AOP) products, including Switched-On products primarily for older students, and Horizons® and LIFEPAK® primarily for younger students.<sup>2</sup> School administrators transitioned from Switched-On Schoolhouse to Switched-On Online at the beginning of the 2009-10 academic year in order to provide additional flexibility for its students. Eagle Nest Christian Academy specializes in a variety of educational niches – from teaching homeschoolers, to international students, to at-risk youth.

### ENROLLMENT

The following exhibit illustrates Switched-On Online course enrollment, by subject area, for the 2009-10 academic year.



(1) Core courses consist of a unique course scope and sequence among the following disciplines: math, science, language arts, history & geography, and Bible.  
 (2) Electives consist of any course not listed in the core course unique scope and sequence, but may include courses within the core academic disciplines.  
 Source: Switched-On Online, 2009-10, semester I.

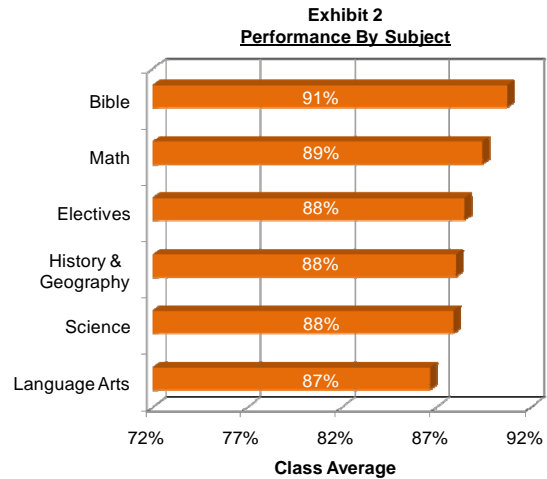
As shown in Exhibit 1 above, 87 percent of all course enrollments were for core courses, while 13 percent of course enrollments were for electives. It should be noted, however, that elective courses may contain courses within the core-course disciplines, but that themselves are not considered core courses. For example, “Pre-Algebra” is an elective, although it falls within the core discipline of math.

## Results

The following section evaluates the efficacy of Switched-On Online by examining student performance, college attainment, standardized tests, and teacher/student satisfaction.

### STUDENT PERFORMANCE

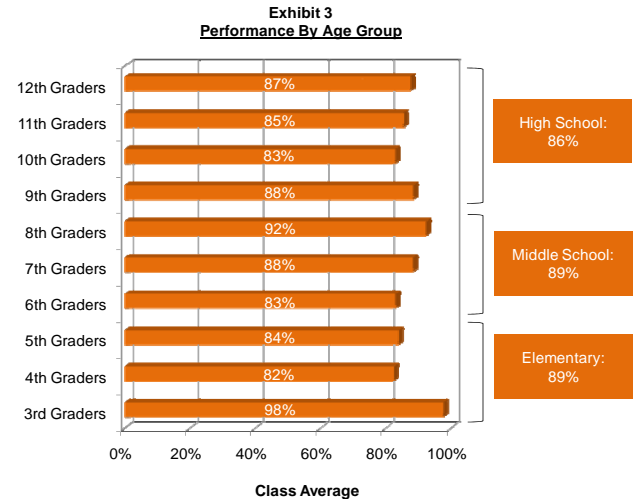
Exhibit 2 depicts the average course grade by discipline. However, please note that the averages shown below span grade levels three through 12.



Source: Switched-On Online, 2009-10, semester I.

As shown in the exhibit above, class averages ranged from a low of 87 percent (B+) for language arts courses, to a high of 91 percent (A-) for Bible courses. When averaging all student grades among all academic disciplines, the class average was 88 percent (B+).

Exhibit 3 below depicts the average course grade by age group.



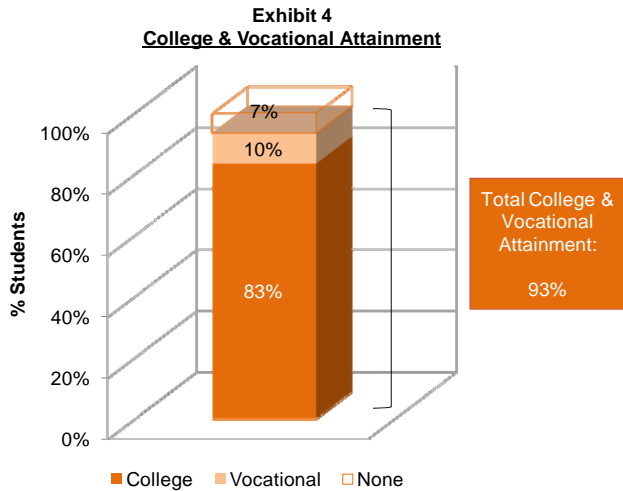
Note: Excludes electives.  
 Source: Switched-On Online, 2009-10, semester I.

<sup>1</sup> Eagle Nest Christian Academy has a total student enrollment of 74 students. Of the 74 students, 35 use Switched-On Online.  
<sup>2</sup> Approximately 60 percent of the student body has learning difficulties (ex: ADHD, autism, dyslexia, etc.). These students use Wilson Reading System® in conjunction with AOP products.

As shown in the exhibit on the previous page, there was little variation in performance among the respective age groups. However, at 98 percent, third graders performed better than their older cohorts. Elementary students and middle school students earned group averages of 89 percent, while high school students earned a group average of 86 percent.

**COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Exhibit 4 illustrates college and vocational attainment of graduates from Eagle Nest Christian Academy.

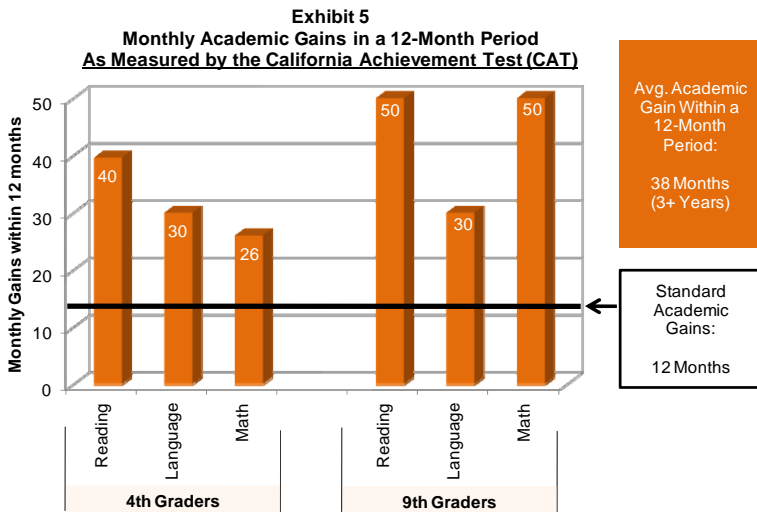


Note: Figures shown above represent total figures since school's opening in 2007.  
Source: Eagle Nest Christian Academy.

As shown in the exhibit above, 93 percent of Eagle Nest Christian Academy graduates continue on to college or to another vocational program, such as the military. Specifically, 83 percent of graduates attend college, while 10 percent attend vocational programs.

**STANDARDIZE TESTS PERFORMANCE**

Exhibit 5 presents academic gains made within a 12-month period, as measured by the California Achievement Test (CAT). The CAT is a standardized test designed to measure content mastery in mathematics, reading, and language arts, and is required of all students at Eagle Nest Christian Academy.



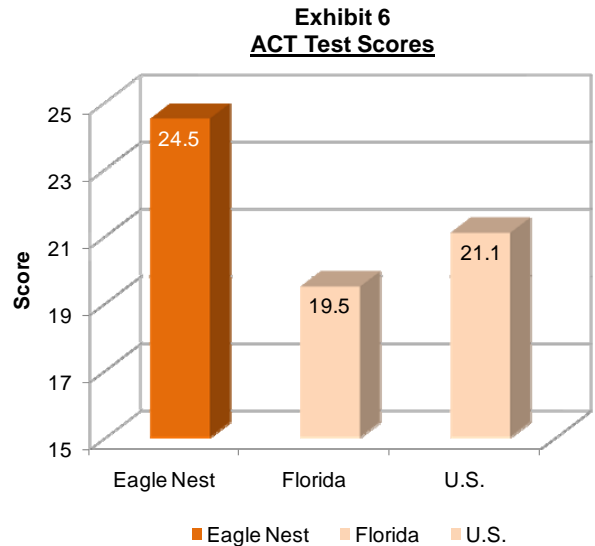
Note: Results shown above are for Eagle Nest Christian Academy's special education students.  
Source: California Achievement Test (CAT), 2007 & 2008.

As shown in exhibit 5, students at Eagle Nest Christian Academy experienced significant academic gains within a 12-month period. For example, in 2007, fourth graders were learning at approximately a third grade level, as measured by the CAT. The following year (2008) the fourth grade cohort (who, after 2007, transitioned to fifth grade) was learning at well above a fifth grade level.

Ninth graders experienced significant academic gains as well. As shown in Exhibit 5, students learned four times the status quo (50 months versus 12 months, respectively) in reading and math, and 2.5 times the status quo in language (30 months versus 12 months, respectively).

When averaging the student gains in Exhibit 5, students were able to learn approximately three years of schooling within one academic year. This figure is especially telling, given that these students were special education students.

Exhibit 6 presents student performance on the ACT. The ACT, formerly known as American College Testing, measures student knowledge in four key subject areas – English, math, reading, and science. Exam scores are a critical admissions determinant at many American colleges and universities. Participation in the ACT is optional for Eagle Nest Christian Academy students.



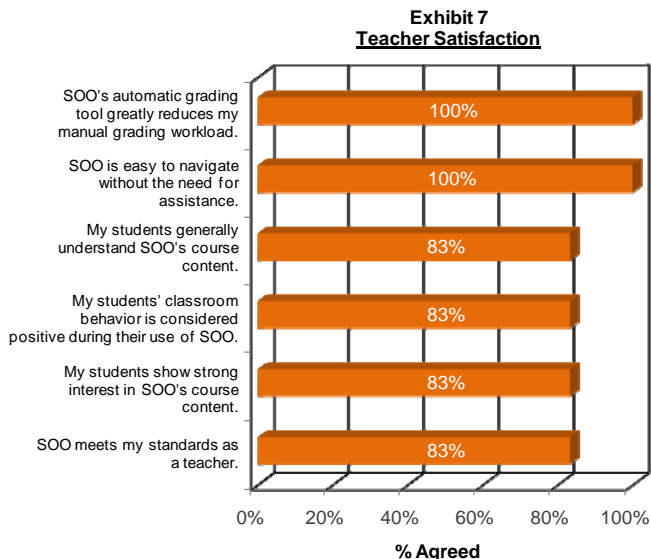
Source: ACT, 2009.

As shown in Exhibit 6, Eagle Nest Christian Academy students outperformed their state and country counterparts on the ACT test. Specifically, when averaging the performance of Florida and the U.S., Eagle Nest Christian Academy students scored 21 percent higher than these two cohorts.

**TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION**

In order to gauge satisfaction with Switched-On Online, both teachers and students were asked to complete surveys.

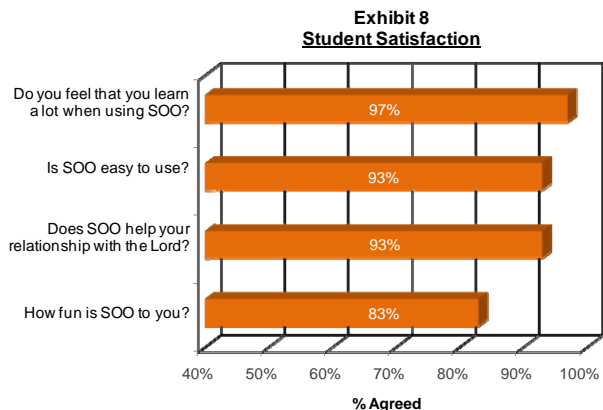
Exhibit 7 depicts the results of the teacher satisfaction survey.



*Note: Percentages shown above reflect respondents who either "agreed" or "strongly agreed" with the respective statements. "SOO" denotes Switched-On Online. Source: Eagle Nest Christian Academy, 2010.*

As shown in Exhibit 7, all teachers surveyed feel that Switched-On Online's automatic grading tool greatly reduces their manual grading workload. They all also agree that the software is easy to navigate without the need for additional assistance. A large majority of respondents (83 percent) feel that Switched-On Online meets their standards as a teacher. The same percentage of respondents feel that students behave well when using Switched-On Online, and that students both understand and take an interest in the software's course content.

Exhibit 8 depicts the results of the student satisfaction survey.



*Note: Percentages shown above reflect respondents who selected either "a lot" or "a little". "SOO" denotes Switched-On Online. Source: Eagle Nest Christian Academy, 2010.*

As shown in the exhibit above, student satisfaction with Switched-On Online is positive in a variety of issues. Specifically, 97 percent of students surveyed feel that they learn a lot when using Switched-On Online. Fully 93 percent of student respondents feel that Switched-On Online is easy to use and helps their relationship

with the Lord. Eighty-three percent of students surveyed feel that Switched-On Online is fun.

**Conclusion**

Student performance at Eagle Nest Christian Academy has well exceeded "normal". Indeed, the average student earns a B+ in his courses. Moreover, 93 percent of graduates go on to college or another vocational program, such as the military. And when asked to gauge their satisfaction, both teachers and students feel overwhelmingly positive about the online learning environment that is Switched-On Online.

However, while the scenario at Eagle Nest Christian Academy defies the norm of a typical school setting, stellar student performance and strong product satisfaction levels is nothing unheard of with Switched-On users. With Switched-On Online, students have 24-7 access to fun, self-paced curriculum; teachers have a powerful tool to manage the day-to-day of their classroom; administrators have a plethora of information to make data-driven decisions, and parents have peace of mind knowing their child is receiving a top-tier education. Come see why so many schools choose Switched-On Online!

"My favorite thing about Switched-On Online is that you are not on a schedule and can move at your own speed."  
 (Student, Eagle Nest Christian Academy)

"The real value of Switched-On and AOP material is that we're able to take kids who would not pass in the public school, and not only do they pass and get a diploma here, but many of them go on to college. That's the big thing."