

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2008

UNION CHRISTIAN ACADEMY LOOKS TO JOIN MPSA

Farmerville, LA - Union Christian Academy has announced that it has made application as a candidate school for the Mississippi Private School Association (MPSA), for the 2009-10 school year. According to Paul Murray, UCA School President, this move should enhance all UCA academics and athletic programs in a big way.

Murray said, "This is a huge forward step for UCA. We will be upgrading our athletic programs across the board, including a move to full 11-man football for next season. We are very excited about aligning with MPSA. There are some wonderful, well-respected institutions in the league, and we'll be happy to be associated with them." Area MPSA schools with whom UCA will now be aligned include River Oaks in Monroe, Prairie View Academy in Bastrop, Claiborne Academy in Haynesville, Glenbrook School in Minden and Riverfield Academy in Rayville.

"Joining MPSA will help us strengthen our academic programs first through MPSA accreditation, and by offering our Educators more continuing education opportunities, offering our students academic rallies and quiz-bowls, and reinforcing our commitment to excellence." Murray said.

From an athletic standpoint, UCA's phenomenal growth in only 8 years was attractive to officials at MPSA. "According to MPSA's leadership, UCA will most likely join the Association as a class A school initially, however, based on our internally-forecasted high school enrollment in 2 years (when MPSA again re-evaluates its athletic alignment) that could change fairly quickly," said Athletic Director Blaine Beck. "The pressure's on us...and I LIKE pressure!" Beck continued, "We have a football, baseball and softball complex to complete by June of 2009. We have to start moving right away."

Union Christian Academy officials believe there is an intangible message in this alignment, also. Board President Chuck Kinnison said, "I believe joining MPSA helps to demonstrate our commitment to Union Parish, and says to the entire north-central Louisiana region that we intend to be here for generations to come. We are grateful to the wonderful association we have had in the Arkansas-Louisiana Christian Athletic League. ALCAL has been wonderful in helping us establish our athletic programs, giving our young people a place to play and compete, and they

have been incredible to work with, even as we have grown so quickly. They've accommodated us in every situation, and we appreciate them so much for that. We believe joining MPSA is the next step for us in our progression to be what God wants us to be. There are so many positive things happening in Union Parish, we're thrilled to be a part of the good news!"

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