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"I'm Gina Fisher. Check out my recipe for peanut butter cookies on Page 29."

## Simply Florence

At 80, Florence Gause still teaching phonics program at Country Christian School

By Janis Edmondson  
 Community Contributor

"Best-kept secret" is the way many parents refer to 80-year-old Florence Gause, who continues to teach "Simply Phonics" in the classrooms of Country Christian School, a private school in Rosedale for kindergarten through sixth grade.

Gause has published her phonics program and sells it to interested school districts and individual teachers at her cost because she has found it so valuable in teaching basic reading through the years. She has written the program to be user-friendly, keeping in mind the already overburdened teacher. The six-week, "Simply Phonics" program is taught in grades one through three and to new students in grades four through six at the beginning of each school year. When tested, students in the upper grades often gain one to two grade levels after using the phonics program at C.C.S.

Gause's dream had always been to open a Christian school where she could teach her phonics reading method. She was able to do this, along with her husband, "Mr. Bob," in 1983. Little Country Christian Preschool was opened with students age 2 to pre-kindergarten. It has evolved into an academic and character-building elementary school for grades kindergarten through sixth. Country Christian School has been operating as a nonprofit organization since 1994. It is now governed by a board of directors representing the school community.



Sarah Toothman and Florence Gause at Country Christian School.

The current president is Tom Hoffmann of Hoffmann Hospice. Hoffmann points out that class sizes are small, especially in grades fourth through sixth, where some classes may be as small as eight students. The teachers are experienced and well-regarded by past parents.

Country Christian School uses A-Beka curriculum for reading, science and spelling. Saxon Math is used, as is the Shurley Method for language arts.

Jonell Griffith is the administrator of the school, located at 2416 Dean Ave., and welcomes anyone looking for a good, academically-oriented school and a warm, friendly place for their child to belong.

For more information call 589-4703.

## Letters to the Editor

### Gause a class act

Florence Gause is not only a great educator but a genuinely nice person and a true class act.

She runs Country Christian School, not only with all the basics that any child needs to be successful, but with lots of love for her students, as well as for her faculty of superb teachers. Religion is an integral part of everyday life at Country Christian, and that — along with the educational atmosphere of her classrooms — allows all of her students to depart not only as good citizens but as individuals destined to live better, more productive, and compassionate lives.

I am not readily given to praise. However, Florence Gause is a very special person who lives her religion and leaves something good in every life she touches.

Her patience, her genuine belief in Christ and her commitment to educating the children she loves sets an example very few can replicate.

Rosedale should be very proud of having a person of this caliber amongst them. Her school is a little-known asset to the community. Florence is a good person who makes a difference.

Panfilo Fuentes