



The Christian Academy renovated and repaired all of the buildings on the property. Today the academy is full of children from grades kindergarten through eighth grade learning through the classical method of teaching.

"We completely restored the flag display," said Ralph Cochran, the Christian Academy board president. Some former cadets have been able to illustrate what the academy was like by sharing their experiences.

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"When we would go to the pool I was always a fish in water," recalled Christopher Bennett, 52, of Richmond, Va., who attended the academy in 1968 and remembered trying to get a dive in even though it was time to get out of the pool. "As I broke surface (the instructor) slapped me so hard he chipped my front tooth."

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Bennett, who said he enjoyed his time at the academy, went on to join the U.S. Navy and became a dental technician.

With a love of mathematics, Bryan Ball, 50, of Princeton, who attended the academy from 1966 to 1970, skipped two grades he went on to become an engineer.

Many of those that attended were troublemakers or members of broken homes.

One of the bad boys who attended was a 9-year-old Tom Hainsworth from 1968 to 1969.

"My mother put us in military school because my brother and I weren't well behaved," said Hainsworth, 49, of Spring Hill, Fla.

Hainsworth remembers the school with mixed emotions.

"It was a combination of exciting and scary," he said.

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