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# THE CHIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HAWTHORNE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



FALL  
2017

## 19TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

This year's Golf Outing was anything but a washout! The attendees enjoyed fun and fellowship, and the event raised over \$80,000! See more on page 7.



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FALL 2017

Hawthorne Christian Academy is committed to **inspire** and challenge our students toward spiritual maturity, to **achieve** academic excellence, and to **impact** the world for Christ.



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# A WORD IN SEASON

## A COMPASS AND A PORTRAIT

"A good compass is relentless... it constantly points us to our goal." Dr. Steve Gray



David Seidman  
Head of School

"A true education is much more like a compass than a road map. A road map details every twist and turn that we might encounter on our journey... A compass is a little different. It constantly calls us to travel in the right direction." – Dr. Steve Gray, Christian school administrator

HCA's compass is our mission statement. This guides the decisions we make in hiring, curriculum, policies, and more. As you can see, our mission focuses on three areas at the heart of our Christian community: *Hawthorne Christian Academy is committed to **inspire** and challenge our students toward spiritual maturity, to **achieve** academic excellence, and to **impact** the world for Christ.* Our faculty grappled with an important question: *In light of our mission, what should our graduates look like when they leave HCA?* Their conclusion...

### PORTRAIT OF AN HCA GRADUATE:

*Inspire toward spiritual maturity...*

- 1 Have a knowledge of who Christ is, and a personal relationship with Him
- 2 Exemplify Christ-like character
- 3 Understand the distinctiveness of the Christian worldview
- 4 Pursue ongoing spiritual growth

*Achieve academic excellence...*

- 1 Have a life-long passion for learning
- 2 Engage in critical thinking, ask meaningful questions, and solve problems
- 3 Be an effective communicator
- 4 Work competently, both collaboratively and independently

*Impact the world for Christ...*

- 1 Be a servant leader who loves and serves in the church and community
- 2 Identify, develop, and use their God-given gifts for the honor and glory of God
- 3 Articulate and defend their faith, and seek to share the Gospel
- 4 Understand diverse cultures and value each person as created in God's image

The educational experience that HCA provides represents the most critical years developmentally for a young person. What could be more important than seeing a student grow in these three areas? We're excited to partner with our families to paint this portrait. Working together, our mission provides a compass to guide our young people to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to see each one become a complete portrait of that.

# HCA HIGHLIGHTS

## CAMPUS FEATURES

Exciting things are happening at HCA!

### INTRODUCING NAVIANCE

HCA is taking steps to further improve the efficiency of our Guidance Department. Naviance is an online college and career readiness platform that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals. The platform allows schools to create personalized success plans for each student. Students collaborate with Guidance to set personal goals and tasks, search for colleges, and explore careers based on skills and interests. HCA's Guidance Department uses Naviance to track college applications and recommendations. Naviance also enables students and their parents to track progress and access all necessary documents and procedures in one location. HCA Freshmen and Sophomores will be exploring Naviance in their seminar classes to become familiar with the tool. Naviance is an exciting new addition to HCA, and will be used in conjunction with the personalized college and career process that HCA has been implementing for over 35 years.



### BUILDING A LEGACY

Twenty HCA alumni have twenty-four children enrolled at HCA this year! These second-generation Defenders range from preschool to 12th grade. Senior Haley Oquendo-Escobar will be our first legacy student to graduate from the Academy. Can you match these mini-mes to their alumni parents?

**Row 1:** Connor (preschool) is the son of Kirk De Boer ('01), Grace (kindergarten) is the daughter of Steve Halliwel ('04), MacKenzie (preschool) is the daughter of Matthew ('99) and Nicole (Senak) Bader ('03), Emma (preschool) is the daughter of Julie (Thoman) LaGrotteria ('03), Reagan (grade 1) is the daughter of Keith ('04) and Stephanie (Wolfe) Nye ('02), Sienna (preschool) and Olivia (grade 1) are the daughters of Kevin ('95) and Jennifer (McCausland) Stanford ('95), and Mia (grade 3) is the daughter of Angel Grant ('03).

**Row 2:** Keri (grade 6) is the daughter of Michael ('91) and Katie (Klock) Andersen ('91), Jane (grade 2) is the daughter of Jason Romine ('00), and Ava (grade 5), Eli (grade 5), Cole (grade 5), Ty (grade 8), and Zoe (grade 10) are the children of Shane Higby ('90).

**Row 3:** Erik (grade 9) is the son of Michael ('91) and Katie (Klock) Andersen ('91), Nicholas (grade 7) is the son of Rachel (Livingston) DeBlock ('96), Haley Oquendo-Escobar (grade 12) is the daughter of Ana Maria Escobar ('98), and Rachel (grade 11) and Christopher (grade 9) are the children of Michael Eelman ('96).

**Not pictured:** Avery (preschool) is the daughter of Amanda (Yost) Bushoven ('00), Maggie (preschool) is the daughter of Jason Romine ('00), Madeleine (preschool) is the daughter of Nicole (Critelli) LaGrotteria ('03), and Josiah (preschool) is the son of Diana (Galvan) Robles ('05).

# WELCOME ABOARD

## HCA'S NEW FACULTY & STAFF

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands" Ps. 90:17



**KATIE GOITZ**  
LS & MS PE

Ms. Goitz comes to us with over four years of teaching experience. She formerly taught PE in Emerson, Hawthorne, Nutley, and even Kijabe, Kenya. Ms. Goitz also coaches high school volleyball, basketball, and softball for HCA.

**DO YON HWANG**  
GRADE 2

A familiar face at HCA, Mrs. Hwang is an Academy parent and has been an HCA substitute teacher. She now joins us full-time, bringing her certified teaching experience in elementary school, high school, and gifted education.



**ELLISSA KEITH**  
MS & HS ENGLISH

Ms. Keith received her undergraduate and graduate English degrees from Liberty University, and has been teaching high school English since 2015. She is also actively involved in HGC's senior high youth group ministry.



**PAM MIRABELLA**  
PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Mirabella has been a teacher and childcare provider since 1989. She considers her work with young children a true calling and a blessing. She and her husband moved to New Jersey from California three years ago.

**AMY RAISNER**  
GRADE 3

Ms. Raisner graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She started working in education in 2015, and now joins us after spending two years in a public school classroom.



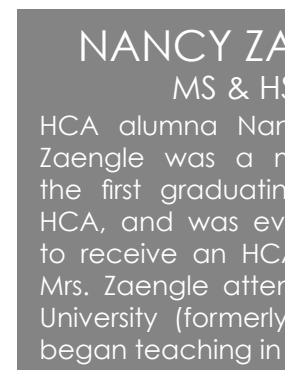
**CINDY RUPPERT**  
GRADE 4

Mrs. Ruppert has been teaching since 2003. She has a B.A. in English from Nyack College and attended Classical Education Training in Seattle, Washington. She also has experience implementing differentiated teaching methods.



**NICOLE TIENKEN**  
GRADE 5

Mrs. Tienken first came to HCA as a coach during her college years. It was then that she realized her passion for teaching. She began teaching in 2015 and now joins the HCA faculty as a 5th Grade teacher and Head Volleyball Coach.



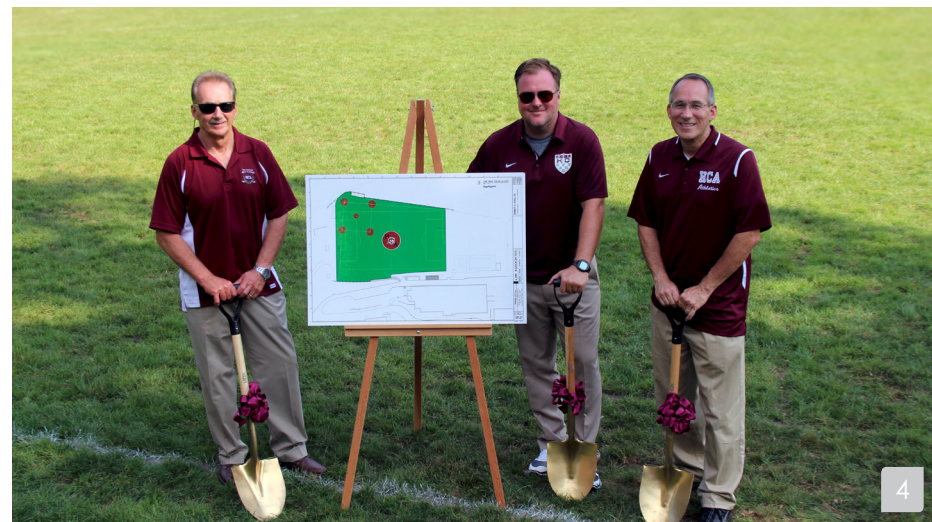
**NANCY ZAENGLE**  
MS & HS SPANISH

HCA alumna Nancy (Davis) Zaengle was a member of the first graduating class of HCA, and was even the first to receive an HCA diploma. Mrs. Zaengle attended Cairn University (formerly PBU) and began teaching in 1992.

# HOMECOMING 2017

## WELCOME HOME!

It was a beautiful day, filled with games, fundraising, and even a dunk tank!



### TURF FIELD GROUNDBREAKING

HCA's 2017 Homecoming stood out among its predecessors as a monumental stepping stone in the advancement of the Academy. This was the year that HCA broke ground on its Turf Field Project. Mr. Seidman, Coach Van Dyk, and Mr. Egedy took up their golden shovels and officially commenced the transformation of the athletic field. The installation of HCA's Multi-Sport Turf Field is scheduled to occur during the fall sports season, and will be completed by the winter months. HCA is excited for this new addition to our Athletic Department, and extremely thankful to our generous donor!

#### PICTURED ABOVE:

- 1 Alumni Soccer Game:** Tyler Van Dyk ('00), Keith Nye ('04), Steve Cobucci ('04), & Jordan Minnema ('06)
- 2 Bounce House:** Adam Malasits (4), Andrew Hart (6), & Jalen Augustin (6)
- 3 Dunk Tank:** Mia Kayal (3)
- 4 Groundbreaking:** Mr. Egedy (Head of the Academy Committee), Coach Van Dyk, & Mr. Seidman

# ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

## OUR 19TH FALL FUNDRAISER

A little rain didn't dampen the day for these die-hard golfers!



### THANK YOU, SPONSORS!

#### HOST & EVENT SPONSORS:

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

School is in full swing, and our students hit the ground running!

### SUMMER READING TOP LOWER SCHOOL READERS

HCA's Lower School students read a grand total of 209,661 pages this summer! The top readers are (from left to right): Austin Lee (kindergarten), 5,391 pages; Trevor Anzardo (grade 1), 15,645 pages; Edward Hwang (grade 2), 6,357 pages; Jed Cha (grade 3), 14,616 pages; Ethan Cha (grade 4), 14,879 pages; and Sydney Chung (grade 5), 5,272 pages.



### HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

The high schoolers packed their bags and headed to Camp Shiloh for a time of fun, bonding, and spiritual growth! Pastor Mike Reed joined the group, speaking on the topic, "Live It Well!" He challenged the students to live each day with purpose, knowing that Christ's return is imminent. Mr. Frederiks echoed this message in his Campfire Challenge, during which multiple students made commitments to Christ. The students grew closer with their classmates through team building exercises, and passionately pursued the Lord together in spontaneous, student-led worship. Since the retreat, many students have chosen to arrive at school early three mornings a week to have a time of prayer together.



### 6TH GRADE CELEBRATES SUKKOT

"Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melekh ha olam..."  
"Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe..." The 6th grade Bible class celebrated Sukkot with their classmates and teachers as part of their Old Testament studies. Sukkot is an Old Testament festival, established for the Israelites to remember God's faithfulness during their wanderings in the wilderness. Sukkot is traditionally held in a sukkah, a temporary dwelling adorned with food and harvest decorations. Students decorated their sukkah and shared a meal as Mr. Seidman recited Hebrew prayers, which were repeated by the class in English. It was a colorful celebration filled with significance and thanksgiving.

### SPELLING CONTEST HOW WELL DO YOU S-P-E-L-L?

Fourteen HCA spellers competed in the NNJCSA Spelling Bee on October 24, held at Abundant Life Academy in Nutley. HCA Lower School and Middle School both took 2nd place out of ten competing schools. Megan Sheen won 3rd place in grade 2, Alyssa Manasse won 1st place in grade 3, Yaelin Hough won 2nd place in grade 6, and Bethany Kwak won 2nd place in grade 8.



## HONORABLE MENTIONS

### 8TH GRADE WRITERS' CAFÉ

Mrs. Harvell held the annual 8th grade Writers' Café on Wednesday, October 11th. As their quarterly writing project, students wrote pieces of flash fiction to assess the mechanics of writing and mastery of colorful language. The students read their masterpieces aloud

to their classmates while they snacked on milk and cookies and offered valuable peer feedback. Notable student authors for this year's Writers' Café were Jessica Rodriguez, Kayla Oh, Melissa Faber, Cana Koppental, and Bethany Kwak.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Seniors Timothy Mastroberti and Christian Silos were selected for the National Hispanic Recognition Program. This program allows students to highlight their outstanding educational achievements during the college admissions process.

### AP CLASSES

Over 55% of HCA juniors and seniors are currently taking AP courses this school year! HCA offers AP Biology, AP Calculus, AP Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, AP English (11&12), AP US Government, AP US History, and AP Studio Art.

# ACADEMY ATHLETICS

WE ARE DEFENDERS!

"If you commit yourself to the love of Christ, then that is how you run a straight race." Eric Liddell

## CROSS COUNTRY

Seven runners represented HCA on the Cross Country team this year. Their collective effort and determination were evident, as all seven athletes improved their running times and saw significant progress throughout the season. Junior Christine Pelliccio was a standout athlete and qualified to compete at the New Jersey State Meet. Coach Chi Chi Van Dyk summed up the successful season by saying, "Our main goal is to run our best and recognize that all we do needs to be God-honoring."



## FALL VARSITY AWARDS

### CROSS COUNTRY

CHRISTINE PELLICCIO (11)  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County  
LYDIA JACKSON (11)  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

### VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

DAVID FALCON (12)  
1st Team All League  
1st Team All County  
CHRISTIAN SILOS (12)  
1st Team All League  
2nd Team All County  
JUSTIN AUGUSTIN (12)  
2nd Team All League  
BANJAMIN MAURA (11)  
2nd Team All League  
TIMOTHY MASTROBERTI (12)  
Honorable Mention All League  
KIRK SCHMIDT (12)  
Honorable Mention All County  
JONATHAN SANGER (11)  
Honorable Mention All County

### VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

PHOEBE PRINZ (10)  
1st Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County  
GIANNA D'AMATO (10)  
2nd Team All League  
2nd Team All County  
OLIVIA WHITE (12)  
Honorable Mention All League  
HALEY OQUANDO-ESCOBAR (12)  
Honorable Mention All County

### VOLLEYBALL

KALI BURRES (11)  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County  
MARIA KLIMIK (12)  
Honorable Mention All League  
ADRIANA BAYRON (12)  
Honorable Mention All County

## VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

This year's theme for the Boys Soccer Program was, "Do Your Job." Each player's role is different, but his value to the team is equal. Coach Tyler Van Dyk focused on accountability, both on and off the field. This season's impressive record of 14-6-1 surpassed that of last season, and also earned the team the 5th seed in the County Tournament and the 2nd seed in the State Tournament. This is the fifth consecutive season that the Varsity Boys Soccer Team has earned a top 4 seed in the State Tournament. Overall, this was an extremely successful season, accomplished by outstanding athletes.

## VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

The Defender Girls Soccer Team saw tremendous growth this season. They increased in size, as more girls joined the team than ever before, and improved in technical ability and tactical skill. Co-captains Emily Lamitola (12), Haley Oquendo-Escobar (12), and Olivia White (12) displayed strong leadership and provided a united example of hard work and commitment for the rest of the team. The girls finished the season with a record of 6-12-1, with Gianna D'Amato (10) leading the team in goals. They have indeed positioned themselves to have another successful season next year!

## VOLLEYBALL

New teacher, Mrs. Nicole Tienken, assumed the role of Head Coach of the Volleyball Team this year. The girls were stretched and challenged far more than in previous years. They learned new techniques and matured as athletes, creating a new atmosphere and standard for the volleyball program. Despite a number of injuries and setbacks, the team finished the season with a robust record of 5-16, and even advanced to the Quarterfinal Round of the County Tournament. Through it all, the athletes played well and became a team that worked together as one unit. Junior Captain Kali Burres led the team with over 100 kills and 75 digs. When asked about the success of the team this year, Kali said, "Our coach has high expectations for us, and that makes all the difference."

## MS SOCCER

The Boys and Girls Middle School Soccer teams both advanced to the Coppa Italia tournament this year! The boys won their tournament against Englewood in an overtime 1-0 victory. It was a year of rebuilding for Middle School Soccer, but the athletes worked hard, improved their skills, and had some fun along the way.



# MUSIC NOTES

## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

HCA's music students are preparing for a very busy holiday season!



### MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS GROWS

The Middle School Chorus has more than tripled in size since its inception! 60 Middle School students joined the award-winning group this year, breaking last year's sizeable record of 38. The Middle School Chorus has several performances scheduled this semester in addition to Thanksgiving Chapel and the HCA Christmas Concert. Their holiday repertoire will encompass a variety of songs, including an a cappella spiritual, a Spanish folksong, a song combining "Jingle Bells" and "The Nutcracker Suite," and an original arrangement of a Christmas hymn.



### CHAPEL BAND 2017

Introducing the 2017-2018 High School Chapel Band! Our Chapel Band is already hard at work, practicing twice a week and leading the high school in worship during weekly chapel services. These talented high school students also minister at our Thanksgiving Chapel, Gallery Walk, and other Academy events. This year's band members are: Jonathan Alektiar, Christine Brower, Sarah Campbell, Philip Duncan, Brenna Frawley, Tim Jackson, Joshua Joseph, Jesse Kriesel, Gabriela Mallack, Charlene Manipon, Grace Meharg, Paloma Parker, Isaiah Rejouis, and Sarah Zacaroli.

## SERVANTS OF THE KING

Servants of the King is preparing for their fourth appearance at Carnegie Hall! They will be performing on December 20th with Ireland's Keith and Kristyn Getty, writers of modern hymns and carols (such as "In Christ Alone" and "The Power of the Cross"). This special concert will fuse Celtic, Bluegrass, Americana, and Classical Music with the choral sounds of the holiday.

Also keep an eye out for Servants' Christmas CD! Presales will begin in November and the CDs will be available around December 8th.



# STUDENT MISSIONS

## HERE I AM, SEND ME!

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Mark 16:15

### SUMMER TRIPS

More than twenty HCA middle and high school students went on short-term missions trips this summer! They ministered internationally in over nine countries, and locally in three different US states. Touch the World, Word of Life, Convoy of Hope, and many other organizations and churches partnered with our students to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Their destinations included China, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, Cleveland, OH, Paterson, NJ, and Philadelphia, PA.



### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Three Spring Break missions trips are being coordinated through Touch the World (TTW), who has been partnering with HCA for the past three years. For the first time, one of these trips has also been made available to middle schoolers! This spring, students will be ministering in the refugee community in Dallas, Texas (grades 9-12), the garbage dumps of Guatemala (grades 6-10), and the rural community of Uganda (grades 10-12). Thirty-nine middle and high school students are already registered to embark on these trips. A Missions Training Weekend will be held at Camp Shiloh on February 16th-18th, and all final payments are due on March 9th. TTW also provides students with an online fundraising platform and other fundraising opportunities. Contact Mrs. Rainey for more information on these exiting missions opportunities.

#### PICTURED ABOVE:

- 1 **Uganda:** Benjamin Maura (11), Sarah Zacaroli (12), & HCA alumni Luke Rowland ('11), Jennifer Jobson ('17), & John Maura ('17)
- 2 **China:** Rachel Rypkema (11)
- 3 **Guatemala:** Angela Lovato (10), Sophia Alvarez (12), Jonathan Alektiar (12), alumnus Joshua Butler ('17), & teacher Cathy Alektiar



# ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

## ADVANCING THE MISSION OF HCA

"HCA is founded on God's Word and mission, which are embedded in all we do here."



Sandy Vasquez-Chong  
Director of Advancement

As we prepare for the "season of giving," it is even more apparent to me that HCA is a school of authentic Christian values. It is founded on God's Word and mission, which are embedded in all we do here. I have already witnessed these values in the mere four months that I have been a part of the HCA administration.

These values are not something that is simply taught or a cliché tagline. Rather, I've been so proud to see them lived out by students, parents, faculty, and staff. There is a humble, generous, selfless willingness to help that is often foreign in today's society. It is an incredibly powerful, inspirational representation of God's Word and mission, and in my opinion, the most relevant and effective way to spread His Word. When we live as Jesus did, we are showing the world the power of selflessness, of love, and of community, that are often lost in a "me first" society. I am so blessed, so thankful, and so

inspired to be part of this family, and to work for Him.

Just like the students, parents, faculty, and staff, the Advancement Team strives to extend the school's reach in the world. This would not be possible without the generous, selfless contributions from our incredible donors. Their love for the Lord is ever-present in their willingness to help us financially, which may not always be seen, but is always felt. Without their continued generosity, HCA would not be the incredible, unique, authentic Christian family that it is today.

Thank you, students, parents, faculty, and staff for your willingness to selflessly give your time and effort to help our community. Thank you, donors, for your significant financial contributions that help us continue to make an impact on this world. And thank you, Lord, for allowing me to be a part of it! God's blessings be with you and your families now and forever.

# ALUMNI NEWS

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Send your alumni news to [tina.tatum@hca.org](mailto:tina.tatum@hca.org)!

### WEDDINGS

**Kayleigh Abma ('10)** married Kurt Gensheimer on September 15, 2017, at Brook Hollow Winery in Columbia, NJ. The couple currently lives in Roxbury, NJ.



### BIRTHS

**Angel Grant ('03)** and his wife, Vydianna, announced the birth of Selah Roh Grant on September 1, 2017. [1]

**Natalie (Calderon) Del Mar ('07)** and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their son, Joseph Del Mar, on April 2, 2017. [2]

**Amanda (Berliner) Bernard ('08)** and her husband, Chris, announced the birth of their son, Roman Bruce Bernard, on April 5, 2017. [3]

**Samantha (Abma) Dykstra ('12)** and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their son, Samuel Robert Dykstra, on October 2, 2017. [4]



## UPCOMING EVENTS

LS CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
Thursday, December 14, 2017

MS/HS CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

OPEN HOUSES  
Friday, January 19, 2018  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018

HCA BANQUET  
Thursday, March 15, 2018

VENDOR & CRAFT EXPO  
Saturday, March 17, 2018



Thank you, PTF, for gifting us with a new digital sign!

David Seidman Head of School	Daniel Brown Assistant to the Head of School	Victoria Gracian ('06) Director of Admissions
Marcia Rainey Upper School Principal	Jennifer Eelman Director of Guidance	Tyler Van Dyk ('00) Director of Athletics
Donna Pfeiffer Lower School Principal	Sandy Vasquez-Chong Director of Advancement	Tina Tatum ('12) Chimes Editor

Hawthorne Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the Academy. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and tuition aid programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.





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## THE CHIMES

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### STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"HCA is a godly school. Learning about Jesus Christ with good friends and loving teachers is what makes HCA great."

- Edward Hwang, Class of '28

"At HCA, I have learned so much about God and his promises and I am able to share what I have learned with others."

- Harve Pierre, Class of '26

"The strength of an HCA education is that we get to learn a lot about God! Another strength is our small community school, and how we all work together to make each year a fun year"

- Gianna Liberali, Class of '25



Dain Campbell, Class of '28



WEBSITE  
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