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THE CHIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HAWTHORNE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



FALL
2018

HCA HOMECOMING 2018

HCA celebrated our annual Homecoming event with an exciting Alumni Soccer Game on our new, state-of-the-art turf field. See more on page 5.

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FALL 2018

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

FAITH FOOTSTEPS

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6



David Seidman
Head of School

The statistics are grim. Anywhere from 50-70% of young people struggle with or walk away from their faith after high school. This raises a crucial question for parents: *What makes the others continue in their faith?*

The good news is that parents have the biggest impact on their children's journey of faith. But what *practices* help young people continue to embrace their faith?

Discuss your own faith journey. Emphasize your relationship with Christ, His grace, and His forgiveness. Use life events to make faith real as you converse about how knowing God and understanding Scripture can impact the world.

Allow kids to wrestle with tough questions. Be quick to listen and challenge kids to think through their issues and doubts, but be slow to give simple answers. Provide resources that can help them understand and grow.

Encourage kids to interact with Christian adults. As they grow older and become independent, they need other trustworthy adults who can speak into their lives.

Let kids enjoy the experience of serving others. This will create understanding and empathy

for those who are different. It will allow them to understand that they are stewards, not owners, of their gifts, time, and resources.

Finally, be what you hope to see in your child. A faith that is alive and exciting will most likely be imitated. Praying, doing devotions, and vocalizing God's work in your life will help kids see what a normal Christian walk is like.

University of Notre Dame sociologist, Christian Smith, says that parents, for better or worse, are actually the most influential pastors of their children. Every child has free will, and there are no magic formulas, but planting and watering the seeds prepare the spiritual soil.

HCA parents have the benefit of critical reinforcements in their efforts. Daily Bible classes with opportunities to wrestle with serious questions and apply God's Word to life's challenges, Christian teacher-mentors who model the love of Christ, and the discipline of exercising love and grace in a faith-filled community, all support the work of our parents. We are grateful for that partnership that makes HCA special, as we work together to build a solid foundation so that our young people can walk in their parents' faith footsteps.

HCA HIGHLIGHTS

CAMPUS FEATURES

Exciting things are happening at Hawthorne Christian Academy!

INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING

2018 marked the Student Council's tenth year of giving to international organizations in need. This initiative was started by student leaders ten councils ago to challenge HCA to reach beyond the borders of its campus and local areas. Each year, Student Council members select an organization to support from presentations by their classmates. In order for an organization to be chosen, it must be evangelical in nature, have the potential to leave a lasting tangible impact, and expand beyond our national borders. Throughout each school year, students raise money for the selected organization through various fundraising efforts, such as car washes, local sales, pancake breakfasts, and offerings taken at chapels and worship nights. At the close of its tenth year in this effort, HCA's Student Council had raised a grand total of over **\$44,000** for these ten Christian organizations:

- Blood:Water (Africa)
- Double Harvest (Haiti)
- Intl. Justice Mission (Indonesia)
- Kyklou International (Uganda)
- Love In Action (Bolivia)
- Gospel For Asia (Indonesia)
- Wings of Refuge (Haiti)
- IRIS Global (Mozambique)
- Helping Hands (Greece)
- Touch the World (Uganda)



LEGACY STUDENTS 2018

Twenty-four HCA alumni (including four alumni couples) have thirty children enrolled at HCA this year. Our alumni are excited to pass on the HCA legacy to the next generation of Defenders!

"When choosing a school for our children, HCA was our first choice. HCA is committed to excellence in their programs, but more importantly, excellence in the way they saturate every aspect of school life with the Word of God." -**Kirk De Boer ('01)**

"When deciding where to send our children to school, I wanted the same experience for them that I had. Some of the very same godly teachers that taught me now teach my kids! HCA is a second home and we are blessed to have our children attend." -**Michael Eelman ('96)**

"As an HCA alum, the decision to send my daughter to HCA was simple. My husband and I desired an atmosphere where her academic, emotional, and most importantly spiritual growth would be fostered. We knew HCA was the right place." -**Julie (Thoman) LaGrotteria ('03)**

This year's legacy students are (from top, left to right): Christopher Eelman (10), Nicholas DeBlock (8), Ty Higby (9), Rachel Eelman (12), Sophia Bucci (10), Zoe Higby (11), Erik Andersen (10), Eli Higby (6), Cole Higby (6), Jordan Van Duren (8), Nicole Bucci (11), Keri Andersen (7), Ava Higby (6), Mia Grant (4), Jane Romine (3), Olivia Standford (2), Reagan Nye (2), Levi Gordon (1), Grace Halliwell (1), Maggie Romine (K), Connor De Boer (K), Emma LaGrotteria (K), Josiah Robles (K), Avery Bushoven (PS4), Violet De Boer (PS3), Morgan De Boer (PS3), Gideon Stanley (PS3), and Madeleine LaGrotteria (PS4). [Not pictured: Israel Gonzalez (PS4), Sienna Standford (K)]

HOMECOMING 2018

WELCOME HOME!

HCA family and friends gathered on the new Defender Field to enjoy a fun, sunny Homecoming.



HOMECOMING FUN

This year, HCA celebrated its first Homecoming with our brand-new, state-of-the-art turf field. The beautiful synthetic field hosted our boys and girls varsity soccer games, as well as our annual alumni game. Students, parents, teachers, and alums enjoyed this sun-filled event, complete with fun and games, a delicious barbeque lunch, and classic HCA celebration. Many thanks to our PTF for making this event such a success. The creative new activity booths, cooperation and enthusiasm of volunteers and guests, and record-breaking attendance of HCA alumni truly made this year's Homecoming one to remember.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- 🏀 HCA GAMES
 - Boys Varsity Soccer Game
 - Girls Varsity Soccer Game
 - Girls Varsity Volleyball Game
 - Annual Alumni Soccer Game
- 🍷 PTF FUNDRAISING
 - Barbeque Lunch
 - Harvest & Flower Sale
- ☀️ FUN IN THE SUN
 - Inflatable Slide & Moon Bounce
 - Crafts, Games, & Prizes

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

OUR 20TH FALL FUNDRAISER

HCA celebrated its 20th annual Golf Classic on Crystal Springs' premiere course, Ballyowen Golf Club.

HOST & EVENT SPONSORS

BETTY SUE KOELLER
Tuition Aid Endowment

KAYAL ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER

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Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hart	

GOLD SPONSORS

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Jeff Borst Electrical Contractor	Pastor Howie & Gloria Van Dyk



ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

ADVANCING THE MISSION OF HCA

"Now is your chance to give double what is in your heart and to make twice the impact!"



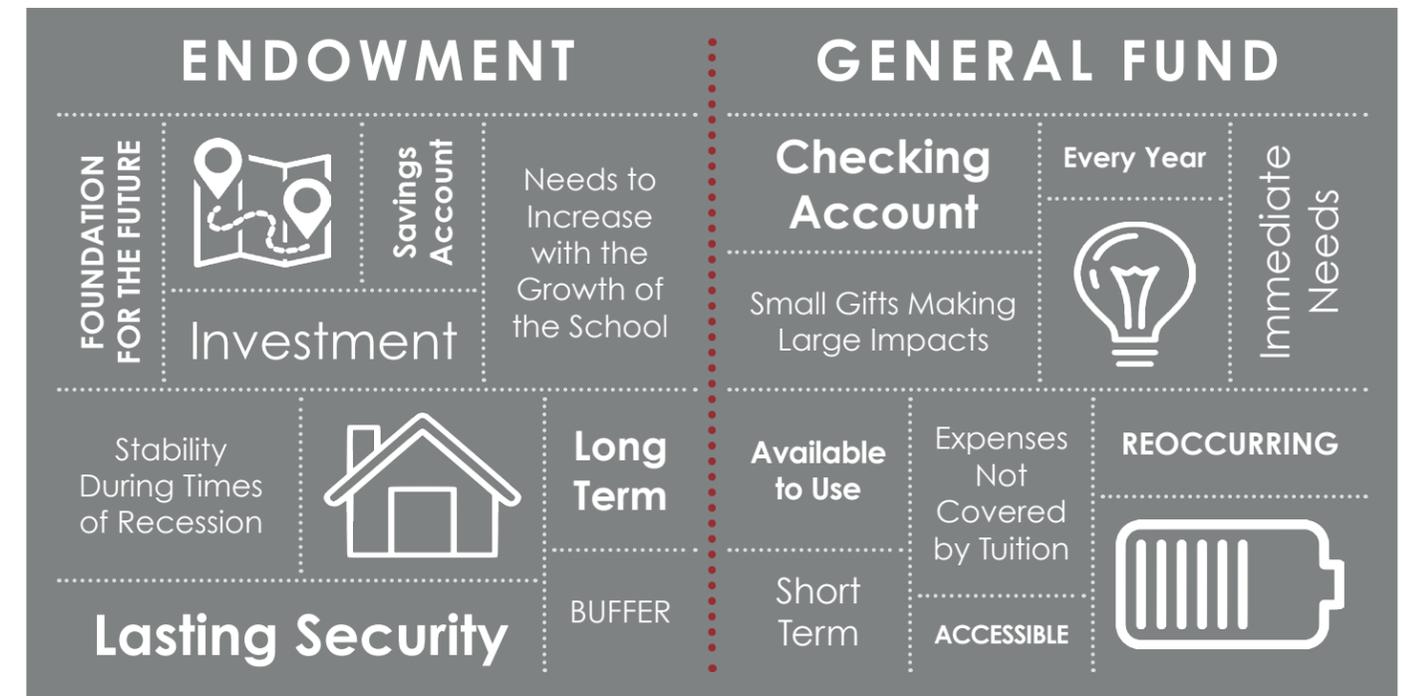
Sandy Vasquez-Chong
Director of Advancement

Throughout the history of HCA, the Lord has always provided. I am awed by the greatness of God's blessings, and amazed that His gifts are far greater than we could ever imagine, as He provides, yet again, for HCA. God has placed it on a generous heart to provide an incredible matching gift opportunity. This donor has offered to match all donations made to HCA up to \$400,000! To this end, we have created the Defender Fund. Every gift made to this urgent appeal will be matched dollar-for-dollar until we reach \$400,000, totaling \$800,000! We have the opportunity as a school family and as a community of believers to work together in faith to accomplish something amazing for the present and future of HCA. God is fully aware of our need and is providing.

It costs more than \$10,000 to educate each child per year at HCA. Tuition alone cannot cover these costs. The Defender Fund exists to ensure that the present and future needs

of HCA will be met. All donations made to the Defender Fund will be equally dispersed into the HCA General Fund (for expenses not covered by tuition, such as teachers' salaries, electricity, etc.) and the HCA Endowment Fund (which will secure the future of HCA and provide stability during tough times).

What we sow into our students is *alive*. Your contributions to HCA become alive in our students as they represent Christ in this world. Help us continue to sow into our students and ensure HCA continues to be a strong, positive, Christian influence on more students and families for years to come. During this time of thanksgiving, of generosity, and of family, I ask you to please search your heart and consider how He has blessed you. Now is your chance to give double what is in your heart and to make twice the impact! Many blessings to you and your loved ones during this season and always! Glory be to God!



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

SPELLING CONTEST

Fourteen HCA spelling champs in grades 2-8 competed in the NNJCSA Spelling Bee on October 23, held at Abundant Life Academy in Nutley. Among 10 competing schools, HCA's lower school tied for first place and our middle school team placed second. Luke Mitchell won first place in grade 8, Anna Rypkema won third place in grade 7, Olivia Sheen won second place in grade 5, and Sophie Arrieta won first place in grade 4.



SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK

This fall's Spiritual Emphasis Week was one to remember. Guest speaker Shawn Hart, from Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, joined the festivities on the HCA campus to inspire our high school students with influential messages. He challenged them with engaging topics, such as *The Relevance of Christianity*, *Trusting God in a World of Suffering*, and *Living the Faith We Proclaim*. The students also grew closer with one another through grade-level activities and discussion groups, and fervently pursued the Lord together in worship and prayer sessions. It was an impactful time of spiritual challenges and community-building. HCA faculty also participated in this event, providing prayer and support for the students. The week was completed with a home soccer game, a Chick-fil-A dinner, and a student-led worship night.



A&P GENETICS CONFERENCE

Seniors in HCA's Anatomy and Physiology course spent the day at Sam Rhine's Genetic Conference in Ridgewood, New Jersey on October 18. At the conference, students had the opportunity to learn from leading genetics expert, Sam Rhine, who regularly holds renowned conferences around the country. Sam combines his expertise in genetics with his passion for teaching, and has been educating teachers, students, and medical professionals about recent advances in genetics for over twenty-five years. Our students were able to hear and discuss in-depth research on such topics as human genetics, biotechnology, cloning, stem cells, and much more. This was an incredible learning experience for HCA's Anatomy and Physiology students, as many are currently considering pursuing medical and science careers.

SUMMER READING

HCA's lower school collectively read over 200,000 pages this summer. Each year, the top readers in each grade receive special recognition for their summer reading achievements. 2018's winners were: Penelope Schmoockler (kindergarten), 11,005 pages; Zoe An (grade 1), 6,341 pages; Trevor Anzardo (grade 2), 13,349 pages; Alyssa Ng (grade 3), 6,769 pages; Jed Cha (grade 4), 19,827 pages; and Ethan Cha (grade 5), 15,747 pages.



HONORABLE MENTIONS

A PERFECT SCORE

Senior Abigail Ng has earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. Only around 0.1% of ACT test takers earn a perfect score. Top scorers have likely mastered all of the skills and knowledge they will need to succeed in first-year core college courses.

A COMMENDED STUDENT

Kali Burres (12) has been named a Commended Student in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who took the 2017 Preliminary SAT/NMSC Qualifying Test.

NEW & INTERESTING

LUNCH 'N LEARNS

Light the Way Counseling Center has partnered with HCA's guidance department and administration to develop Lunch 'N Learn sessions for our middle and high school students. These Lunch 'N Learns will be offered once a month throughout the school year, and will

cover a variety of relevant topics facing teens today. This year's series will explore subjects such as worries and stress, loss, relationships, online presence, and self-image. These sessions will provide an opportunity to openly discuss difficult topics in a safe environment.

STUDENT MISSIONS

HERE AM I, SEND ME!

More than 40 HCA middle and high school students ministered in over 13 countries and 11 US cities this summer!



THE MISSION FIELDS

- Boston, MA
- Cuba
- Dallas, TX
- El Salvador
- Greece
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Jamaica
- Korea
- Lancaster, PA
- LBI, NJ
- Mexico
- Neptune, NJ
- New York, NY
- Newark, NJ
- Passaic, NJ
- Paterson, NJ
- Peru
- Philadelphia, PA
- Puerto Rico
- Uganda
- United States
- Virginia Beach, VA



FACULTY FEATURES

HCA'S NEW FACULTY & STAFF

HCA announces four new teachers, a new PTF President, and professional development endeavors.

WELCOME ABOARD!



MRS. JONES
GRADE 5

Alison Jones moved with her family from California, where she had teaching experience in both kindergarten and fifth grade. She has a BS from NCSU and an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary.



MR. MINNEMA
HS VIDEO EDITING

Jonathan Minnema ('09) earned degrees in Bible and Theology at Cairn University and Dallas Theological Seminary. He currently works at HGC as Media Director, and teaches and coaches at HCA.



MRS. MOORHEAD
PRESCHOOL 4

Britt Moorhead comes to HCA from California with bachelor's and master's degrees in education, as well as training in Early Childhood Development and 20 years of experience as a kindergarten teacher.



MS. STAMMER
HS MATHEMATICS

Miss Stammer graduated from Kutztown University with a BS in Secondary Education Mathematics. She has previously taught high school-level math in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Puerto Rico.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Several HCA teachers attended professional development seminars and conferences this summer in an effort to further improve HCA's teaching methods and programs. Four of our lower school teachers took a full week of Orton Gillingham training, a multi-sensory program for teaching phonemic sounds to assist reading and spelling.

Two HCA preschool teachers also attended a one-day phonemic awareness workshop, in accordance with the Winsor Learning Sunday system. This program will enable our preschoolers to better learn their numbers, shapes, colors, and letters with automaticity, providing a stronger ability to read words with fluency.

An HCA fifth grade teacher joined our middle school math teacher for a two-day Eureka math course. This digital math program stresses problem solving strategies and visualization of math concepts that will enable students to have a deeper comprehension of grade-level skills.

NEW PTF LEADERSHIP

Erica Realpe has officially stepped into the position of PTF President. After serving as a PTF Rep for four years, Erica worked alongside the Immediate Past President, Alison Duncan, as her Vice President. Erica now brings her strong listening skills and creative, out-of-the-box thinking to the role of President, as she guides the PTF and encourages families to get involved at HCA.

ACADEMY ATHLETICS

GO DEFENDERS!

The Defenders enjoyed their first season on our new turf field.

CROSS COUNTRY

"Go fight, run for Him!" HCA's cross country team gathered to chant together before every race. The six runners experienced an exciting season, full of challenges, perseverance, and great improvement. Senior Christine Pelliccio was an exceptionally accomplished athlete, qualifying to compete at the New Jersey State Championship Meet. The team members put forth great effort, preparing themselves individually and working together to achieve notable team successes.



VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

HCA's girls soccer team broke new ground as a squad this year. The Lady Defenders enjoyed a season of celebration, playing with enthusiasm on the new turf field and reaching many milestones together. For the first time in recent history, varsity girls soccer earned a spot in the New Jersey state tournament. Their season record also improved year-over-year for the fifth consecutive year. Beyond the wins and losses, the girls truly worked as a team this season. They put forth a triumphant effort, displayed a great unity of spirit, and graciously grew through joy and adversity.

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball coach, Nicole Tienken, continued the redefinition of the HCA volleyball program this year. In the areas of commitment, unity, and mental and emotional strength, this team has been one of the most promising in HCA history. Coach Nicole's theme for the season was "Ripping Off Labels." She encouraged the girls to lay aside old failures, to play confidently in their own skills, and to work hard. Despite multiple season-ending injuries, the team turned the heads of fans, coaches, and rivals, receiving many complimentary remarks on their improvement.



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

The two themes for the 2018 varsity boys soccer season were "Accountability" and "An Attitude of Gratitude." The boys kicked off the season with a 6-0 win in the inaugural game on the new Defender field, which also resulted in Coach Tyler Van Dyk's 150th career win as Varsity Head Coach at HCA. The season was filled with many accomplishments and valuable playing experiences, and the Defenders qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament for the eighth consecutive season.

Senior Captain Ben Maura led the team in assists, and was complemented by Junior Captain Cole Foster, who led the team in goals. Junior Carson Guingon aided with assists and possession in the midfield, and sophomores Brian Sanchez and Chris Eelman anchored the defense.



MS BOYS SOCCER

Middle school boys soccer finished this season with a winning record! The team never quit, giving their all in every game until the final whistle. Coach Aaron Van Dyk also celebrated his 100th win as HCA's middle school soccer coach this season.



MS GIRLS SOCCER

Middle school girls soccer placed second in this year's Coppa Italia Tournament. Student-athletes Ava Higby (6), Ashleigh Maura (6), and Suzanna Odusote (8) led the team as top goal scorers this season. Congrats, junior Lady Defenders!

FALL VARSITY AWARDS

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

- COLE FOSTER (11)**
2nd Team All League
- ETHAN GREEN (12)**
Honorable Mention All County
- CARSON GUINGON (11)**
2nd Team All League
- SHANE LITTEL (11)**
Honorable Mention All League
- BENJAMIN MAURA (12)**
1st Team All League
2nd Team All County
- JOSHUA MEHARG (11)**
Honorable Mention All County
- BRIAN SANCHEZ (10)**
2nd Team All League

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

- GIANNA D'AMATO (11)**
1st Team All League
1st Team All County
- ZOE HIGBY (11)**
Honorable Mention All County
- ABIGAIL MASTROBERTI (11)**
Honorable Mention All League
- PHOEBE PRINZ (11)**
2nd Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

CROSS COUNTRY

- LYDIA JACKSON (12)**
Honorable Mention All League
- CHRISTINE PELLICCIO (12)**
1st Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- GRACE YANG (9)**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

VARSITY GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- KALI BURREN (12)**
2nd Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
- CAMILLE WEBB (11)**
Honorable Mention All League
Honorable Mention All County

MUSIC NOTES

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The HCA Music Department excelled at the All-State Opera Festival and added a new AP Course.

NEW HCA HANDBELLS

Thanks to a generous donor, the music department has acquired a new half-octave of handbells! The addition of these bells brings the HCA set to five complete octaves. This will allow for more students to participate in our award-winning Allegro and Prelude handbell groups.



ALL-STATE OPERA FESTIVAL 2018

Four HCA students participated in the All-State Opera Festival auditions on Friday, October 26, competing with other vocal students from across the state. Each student prepared an opera aria to sing for the adjudication, and had the opportunity to interact and work with the judges after his or her performance. HCA's Kayla Oh (9) was the high scorer of the competition and winner of a \$500 scholarship and the Governor's Award for Arts Education in Opera. The trio of Bethany Kudisch (12), Maeve Barclay (11), and Kayla Oh (9) was cited as the Madame Paunova Small Ensemble Award winner. Other individual winners were Maeve Barclay (4th place), Bethany Kudisch (7th place), and junior Philip Duncan (8th place). Congratulations to these talented music students!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BARNES & NOBLE MUSIC FUNDRAISER

Saturday, December 8, 2018

CARNEGIE HALL GETTY CONCERT

Thursday, December 13, 2018

LOWER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Thursday, December 6, 2018

HAWTHORNE GOSPEL CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, December 16, 2018

UPPER SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

AP MUSIC THEORY

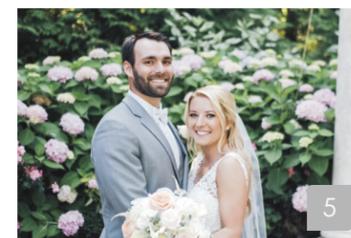
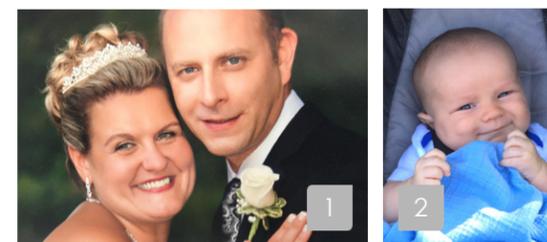
HCA's newest Advanced Placement course is AP Music Theory, offered for the first time in the fall of 2018. In this AP course, students explore a variety of music to discover how it works. They learn how musical ideas are developed, and what compositional techniques are universally employed. Students develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe the processes of tonal music through listening, score study, analysis, and sight-singing. AP Music Theory covers the material typically presented in a college freshman-level Music Theory class. Students receiving a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam may receive college credit.

ALUMNI NEWS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Send your alumni news to tina.tatum@hca.org.

WEDDINGS, BIRTHS, & MORE



Danielle Baggini ('96) married Michael Nichols on August 13, 2016, in Greenwich, CT. The couple currently resides in Budd Lake, NJ. [1]

Kasia (Jezequel) Fundora ('08) and her husband, Chris, announced the birth of their first child, Lyla Isabel, on June 14, 2018. Kasia and Chris currently make their home in Hawthorne, NJ. [3]

Lindsay McDermott ('13) became Mrs. Shawn Clowers on June 29, 2018. The couple was wed by Pastor Jake Minnema at Seasons in Washington Township, NJ. [5]

Erica (Warmelink) Cannaday ('07) and her husband, Ian, announced the birth of their son, Christian Michael, on July 3, 2018. The Cannadays currently live in Midlothian, VA. [2]

Jerry Jacob ('07) and Jisha Thomas celebrated their marriage on August 11, 2018, at the Westside Presbyterian Church in Ridgewood. The couple resides in Bogota, NJ. [4]

Haley Oquendo-Escobar ('18) received her diploma on June 15, 2018, as the first Legacy Student to graduate from HCA. Haley is currently studying at Southeastern University. [6]



David Seidman
Head of School



Daniel Brown
Assistant to the
Head of School



Ken Burres
Director of Technology



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, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities made available to the students of the Academy. It does not discriminate in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and tuition aid programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

**Photos by the HCA Yearbook Staff; Cover photo by Ellen Pelliccio*



THE CHIMES

2000 State Route 208
Hawthorne, NJ 07506



**LOWER SCHOOL
TESTIMONIALS**

"The best part about HCA is that people treat others the right way because we want to act like Jesus."

-Elle Hawthorne, Grade 2

"At HCA, the teachers are fully focused on God and everything they teach is Christ-centered. The teachers are good role models to look up to."

-Aryah Jenne, Grade 5

"The strengths of an HCA education are being able to learn about the Lord in a safe environment, and smaller class sizes that help us be more of a community."

-Adam Malasits, Grade 5



WEBSITE
www.hca.org



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