

FUNDRAISING

Defender Fund
update, page 4

ART GALLERY

Exhibition & music
recital, page 5

2019 GRADS

The graduating
class, pages 8-9

HCA THEATRE

Music, drama, &
desserts, page 11

THE CHIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HAWTHORNE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



SPRING 2019

JOG-A-THON 2019

For the first time ever, HCA students, parents, and faculty enjoyed our annual Jog-A-Thon on the new Defender turf field! Read more on page 6.

CONTENTS

SPRING 2019

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.



03 A WORD IN SEASON

A message from David Seidman, Head of School

04 HCA HIGHLIGHTS

A Defender Fund update and our new Upper School Principal

05 GALLERY WALK

Our annual art exhibition and instrumental Conservatory recital

06 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Fairs, fundraisers, competitions, clubs, and more

08 CLASS OF 2019

The members of our graduating class and their future plans

10 MUSIC NOTES

Dessert Theatre highlights and 2019 competition results

12 ACADEMY ATHLETICS

An inside look at the Defenders' spring sports season

14 CLASS OF 2023

A memorable milestone for our incoming high school freshmen

15 ALUMNI NEWS

Weddings, births, and other alumni adventures

16 STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Quotes and quips from our high schoolers

A WORD IN SEASON

LET'S READ!

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book." Dr. Seuss



David Seidman
Head of School

I've traveled to some unusual places around the world, and I've visited quite a few planets. I've also witnessed some fascinating moments in history, and have seen some incredible events - all because I read.

Some of my best childhood memories are of hours spent beneath the covers late at night, flashlight in hand, reading something I couldn't put down. Reading helped me understand human nature and concepts like courage and love. It demonstrated how ordinary people could do extraordinary things. Who wouldn't want that for their children, or for themselves?

Read! Read something different. Pick up a play. Read a book of poetry. Re-read your favorite book or a classic. Grab a biography off the shelf. Try a science fiction novel, or a love story with a cover picture of a lady looking over her shoulder at a castle on a hill. Just read.

Read the Bible. Tackle the book of Judges, read through Kings and see how leaders respond to power. Read an entire chapter in one sitting, or an entire book. Read Psalm 119 as a family. Look for what God is saying through His Word, and what He is saying to you.

Enrich your mind. Don't be so caught up in the busyness and activities of the summer that you don't slow down and reflect on the world, human nature, and God's words to us. All truth is His Truth. The Apostle Paul writes, "Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it...and we publish it" 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 (The Message).

Few young people take the time to be quiet, reflective readers. Here are some reasons to read more, as research shows that readers:

- Write, concentrate, and listen better
- More easily process new information
- Do well in a wide variety of subjects
- Understand how other people think & feel
- Have the ability to sift through information
- See how unrelated facts fit into a whole
- Are more flexible and open to new ideas

Perhaps most important of all, reading in a reflective manner is the best way to absorb God's Word and to become more like Christ.

This summer, take time to slow down and find a time each day to read. Remember, there's no difference between someone who can't read and someone who won't read. Read!

HCA HIGHLIGHTS

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity, we have met our \$400,000 Defender Fund goal!



THE DEFENDER FUND
IS FULLY FUNDED!
\$400,000 + \$400,000 = \$800,000!

GENERAL FUND \$400,000  ENDOWMENT \$400,000 

WE DID IT! THANK YOU!

When we were presented with this matching gift opportunity in November 2018, we knew it was an answer to prayer. Though a daunting task lie ahead of us, the HCA community began donating to the Defender Fund with open hearts. Milestone after milestone, we slowly chipped away at our \$400,000 goal. HCA students, families, and generous donors blessed HCA with their continual encouragement and support. Five short months later, in April 2019, we reached our goal, all glory to God!

We have learned so much from this incredible experience. We witnessed the love of our community through sacrificial giving, and we were blessed with the opportunity to lean on the Lord wholeheartedly. When we were first presented with this task, we knew we could not raise \$400,000 on our own. Throughout the entire effort, and in every moment of doubt,

the Lord remained constant. What an incredible blessing, not only to achieve this goal, but to experience the love and strength of the Lord - to understand that He is completely in control.

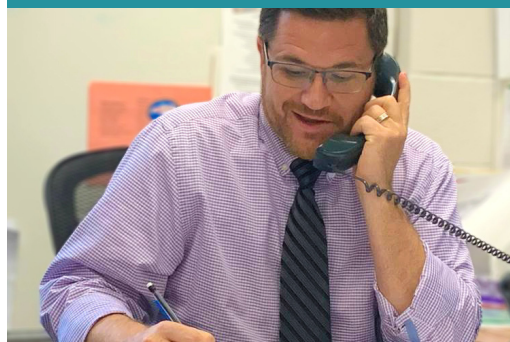
Many know by now that my family and I are relocating to Dallas, Texas. As I say good-bye to the administrators, faculty, and staff at HCA, I take so many treasured memories with me. I have experienced the love of the Lord through the HCA community, and have formed lifelong friendships. Most importantly, I take with me the experience of learning to fully lean on Him. As my family and I begin this new journey, we have no greater joy, encouragement, or confidence than choosing to rely on Him.



Sandy Vasquez-Chong
Director of Advancement

WELCOME, MR. MITCHELL!

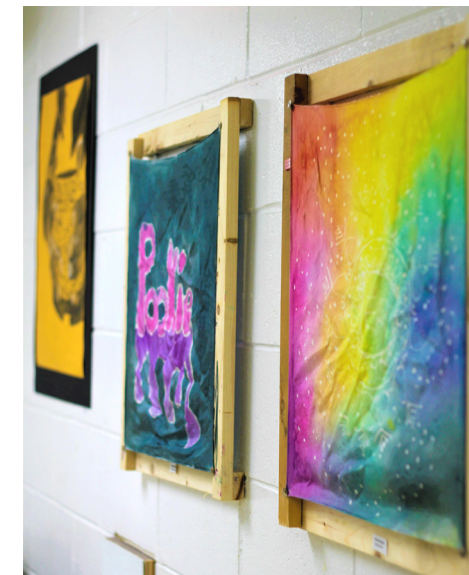
"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs" (Is. 58:11). Where the Lord guides, He provides. As God guided Upper School Principal, Mrs. Rainey, to become HCA's Lower School Principal, He provided Mr. Todd Mitchell to assume the mantle of our Upper School. Mr. Mitchell joins the HCA administration after serving as the Supervisor of Special Education for Livingston Public Schools, where he supported over 70 teachers and educational specialists. Since enrolling his sons, Luke (8) and Matthew (6), at HCA, Mr. Mitchell has become passionate about Christian education, and now seeks a vocation that has eternal significance. "I am truly humbled to have the opportunity to serve as a principal at HCA. I look forward to developing relationships with the teachers, staff, and families as we all work together to lead our students toward academic and spiritual growth."



GALLERY WALK

ANNUAL ART EXHIBIT & CONSERVATORY RECITAL

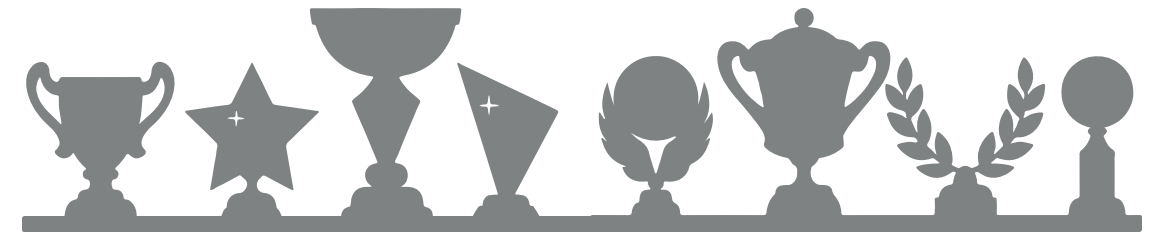
Friends and family gathered at HCA to enjoy our student art gallery and instrumental concert.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31b



JOG-A-THON 2019

HCA held its twenty-ninth annual Jog-A-Thon on Friday, May 3, 2019. This year marked the first-ever Jog-A-Thon on HCA's Defender Turf Field! It was a day of fun, fundraising, and flat field laps for HCA joggers. This day of excitement and exercise also provided a beautiful plant and flower sale and a barbeque lunch. Special thanks to our students, volunteers, and hard-working PTF for making this year's Jog-A-Thon such a success! Thanks to you, this event raised more than \$30,000 for HCA.



LOWER SCHOOL PROJECT FAIR

HCA's lower school classrooms, hallways, and bulletin boards were decorated with a year's worth of artistic masterpieces from every lower schooler at this year's Project Fair. The students of each class used a variety of artistic styles and media to present exhibits representing their grade's specific classroom topics in art form. Family, friends, and faculty were able to browse all of these original creations as they walked through each classroom. The night was complete with fun fellowship, much celebration, and a giant New Jersey cake!



NNJCSA FIELD DAY

HCA hosted this year's NNJCSA's Field Day on our new turf field! Our first place winners were: Evan Colena (3), shuttle run, sprint; Evelyann Kwak (3), shuttle run; Alyssa Ng (3), broad jump; Anthony Urbano (3), broad jump, softball throw, sprint; Benjamin Fleming (4), softball throw; Alyssa Manasse (4), obstacle course; Irene Seo (4), broad jump; Matthew Mitchell (6), softball throw; Hugh Ryan (6), shuttle run; Austin Tucker (7), broad jump, sprint; David Gonzalez (8), broad jump, shuttle run, sprint; and Joanna Meharg (8), shuttle run, sprint.



AFTER-SCHOOL POTTERY CLUBS

Miss Westerman offered several (paid) after-school Pottery Clubs for lower, middle, and high school student-artists throughout the course of this year. Over 40 students participated in these classes, where they learned the basic techniques of pottery throwing, built their skills on the pottery wheels, and made vessels of various shapes and sizes. All projects were then glazed and fired in a kiln at 1,800 degrees, before being taken home and displayed on shelves, tables, and mantelpieces!

MICRO COMPUTER CLASS

HCA's Director of Technology, Mr. Ken Bures, offered an after-school Micro Computer Class (at a cost) to middle and high school students this semester. Participating students learned about the vital components of a computer, and how to connect all components, install

software/apps, connect to the Internet, and start coding. Each student had the opportunity to build and take home his or her own micro computer (Raspberry Pi), complete with a micro SD card, monitor, keyboard, mouse, HDMI cable, and all necessary adapters.

AP CLASS PARTICIPATION

38 students took 67 AP exams in seven courses this spring, including this year's new AP courses, AP Music Theory and AP Comparative Government & Politics. These 38 students represent 52% of HCA students eligible to take AP courses and exams (juniors and seniors).

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

HCA announces our first Legacy Student Council President, Zoe Higby! Zoe will serve as President of HCA's 2019-2020 Student Council. She follows in the footsteps of her father, Shane Higby, who was also the President of his HCA graduating class in 1990.

THE HCA CLASS OF 2019

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

"In all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:6

THE GRADUATES

The graduating seniors who received their diplomas on June 14 are headed to colleges as far west as Chicago, as far south as Florida, and as local as Ramapo and Manhattan. They were offered more than \$4.5M in scholarships.

HCA's thirty-first graduating class brings our alumni total to over 975. The graduates are listed with the colleges they plan to attend:

- Alicia Bocanegra** Quinnipiac University
- Christine Brower**.... Montclair State University
- Kali Burres**+** Cairn University
- Christian Cabral+** Drexel University
- Aileen Del Puerto+** Mercy College
- Taylor Dublin+** Penn State University
- Rachel Eelman**+** Cairn University
- Hayley Farraye** Cairn University
- Bridgette Flucus** Asbury University
- Ethan Green** Drexel University
- Kristina Hickey**+** NJ Institute of Tech.
- Lydia Jackson**..... Montclair State University
- Elizabeth Joseph+** Ramapo College
- Bethany Kudisch**+** The College of NJ
- Charlene Manipon**+** ... New York University
- Megan Mastin**..... Cairn University
- Benjamin Maura**+** Stetson University
- Abigail Ng**+**..... Worcester Polytechnic Inst.
- Matthew Olano**..... Penn State University
- Abigail Palacios**+** Penn State University
- Andrew Pelaschier** The King's College
- Christine Pelliccio** Moody Bible Institute
- Marie Philemon** Temple University
- Emily Raisner**.... Bergen Community College
- Samanta Ramirez**... Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.
- Malorie Rosa** Cairn University
- Rachel Rypkema**+** Univ. of Michigan
- Luke Williams** Cairn University
- Samuel Yang** Wheaton College

**high honors, *honors, +NHS



VALEDICTORIAN

As the class of 2019 prepares to go out into the world, Valedictorian **Rachel Rypkema** reminds her classmates to acknowledge the privileges of their upbringing and of their Christian education. She implores them to not let that go to waste, but to be the embodiment of Jesus in their universities. "We have been given the truth, and a responsibility not to keep it to ourselves."

SALUTATORIAN

In her salutatory address, **Charlene Manipon** asks her classmates to reflect back on God's grace, and on the unity they experienced as a class. "As we transition into a new season of learning and growth, may we not forget the memories made together and the lessons learned. Congratulations, Class of 2019, go forth and walk in the freedom found in God's grace."



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

The class of 2019 received the following scholarships and awards from HCA:

PTF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

- Academic Excellence:**
Charlene Manipon (Salutatorian)
Rachel Rypkema (Valedictorian)
- All-Around Excellence:**
Christine Brower

BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

- Athletic Booster Club:**
Benjamin Maura
Christine Pelliccio
- Music Booster Fellowship:**
Christine Brower

JACOB EGEDY SCHOLARSHIP

Kali Burres

ACOSTA HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP

Abigail Palacios

RONNIE & RENEE SIMON SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Eelman

WELLSPRINGS CENTER SCHOLARSHIP

Hayley Farraye

FAITHFUL SCHOLAR AWARD

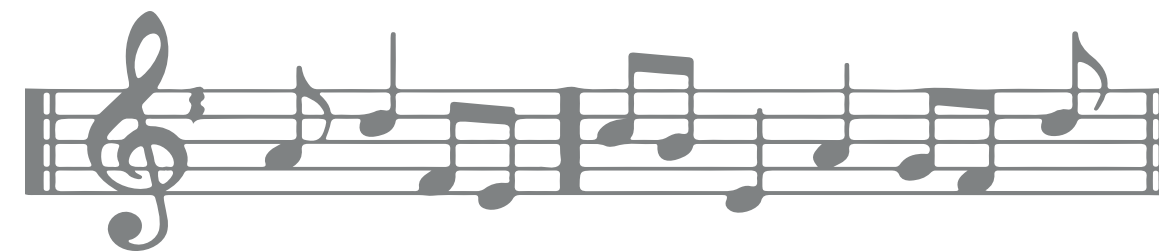
(attended HCA since kindergarten)

- Christine Brower
- Lydia Jackson
- Elizabeth Joseph
- Christine Pelliccio
- Malorie Rosa

MUSIC NOTES

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

HCA's Music Department presented an incredible theatre event and excelled at competition.



HS MUSIC IN THE PARKS

CHORALE

1st Place, Mixed Choir I Category

SERVANTS OF THE KING

1st Place, Mixed Choir II Category

WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

1st Place, Women's Choir Category

MEN'S ENSEMBLE

1st Place, Men's Choir Category

PRELUDE HANDBELLS

1st Place, Handbell Category

ALLEGRO HANDBELLS

2nd Place, Handbell Category

BETHANY KUDISCH

Best Overall Soloist

CARSON GUINGON

Best Student Accompanist



Saturday, May 4, 2019
Hershey Park, Pennsylvania



WORLDSTRIDES HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Servants of the King traveled to our nation's capital on March 21-24 to compete in the prestigious WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival. The weekend was full of exciting events, including visits to the Lincoln Memorial, the Smithsonian Museum, and the new Museum of the Bible. Students also participated in a vocal clinic and attended a performance of *Into the Woods* at the historic Ford's Theatre. At the festival, HCA's Servants of the King swept the competition, winning Best Overall Choir and the Sweepstakes Award for Best Overall Choral Program! The group attended worship on Sunday morning at the National Cathedral, where members of Servants of the King presented the elements during communion. From start to finish, the DC trip was a wonderful, educational, spirit-filled weekend!

SERVANTS OF THE KING

Sweepstakes Award
1st Place Mixed Choir
Gold Medal (Superior Rating)

MEN'S ENSEMBLE

1st Place Men's Choir
Gold Medal (Superior Rating)

WOMEN'S ENSEMBLE

1st Place Women's Choir
Gold Medal (Superior Rating)
Adjudicator Award
Best Overall Choir

BETHANY KUDISCH

Outstanding Soloist Award



MS MUSIC IN THE PARKS

On Saturday, May 18, the HCA Middle School Chorus competed in the Music in the Parks Competition at Six Flags Great Adventure. This 6th-8th grade volunteer ensemble rehearses only twice a week at lunch, yet sings a very high level of music with four-part harmony. Besides achieving a Superior Rating and winning 1st place in the Mixed Choir Category, Middle School Chorus won Best Overall Middle School Choir at the entire competition. In addition, the Best Overall Soloist Award went to HCA 8th grader, Abigail Camacho. Congratulations to these dedicated students!



2019 DESSERT THEATRE

The HCA Music Department held its annual Dessert Theatre on April 12-13.

[1] STAYIN' ALIVE

Carson & Claire Guingon, Joshua Meharg, Brian Mowad, Kaylyn Wang

[2] CHEETAH SISTERS

Taylor Dublin, Lydia Jackson, Christine Pelliccio, Samanta Ramirez

[3] WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

Maeve Barclay, Kaylyn Wang

[4] 100 EASY WAYS TO LOSE A MAN

Christine Brower, Philip Duncan

[5] COME GO WITH ME

Jaiden Fuller, Carson Guingon, Luke Hart, Brian Sanchez

ACADEMY ATHLETICS

GO DEFENDERS!

"God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure." Eric Liddell

SPRING VARSITY AWARDS

VARSIITY BOYS BASEBALL

ANDREW EGEDY (10)

2nd Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

ROBERT KAYAL (11)

2nd Team All League
Honorable Mention All County

MICHAEL LAMITOLA (10)

Honorable Mention All League

HS TRACK & FIELD

ELLA CACE (11)

1st Team All League

GIANNA D'AMATO (11)

2nd Team All League
2nd Team All County

ETHAN GREEN (12)

2nd Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
State Sectional Champion

GRACE GUINGON (10)

1st Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
All State Champion

ZOE HIGBY (11)

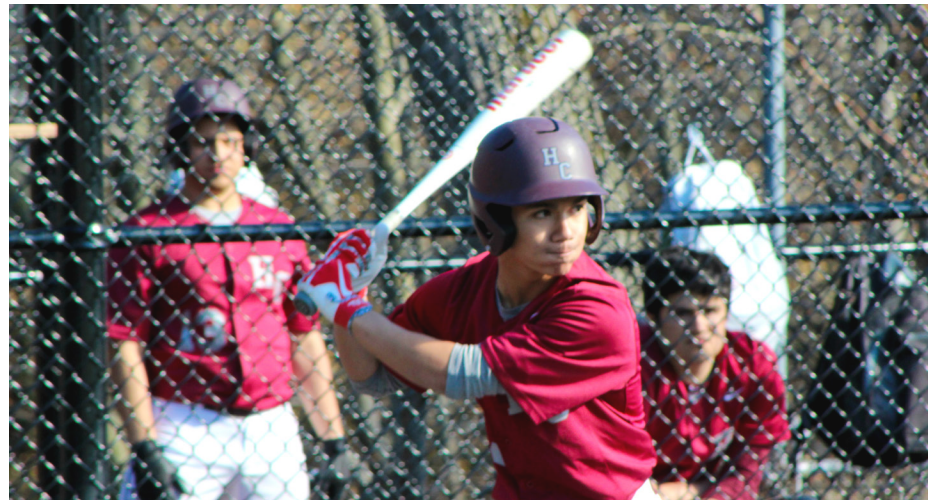
1st Team All League
2nd Team All League
Honorable Mention All County
All State Champion

JJ JOBSON (11)

Honorable Mention All County
State Sectional Champion

GIRLS RELAY TEAM

Honorable Mention All League



VARSIITY BOYS BASEBALL

HCA's varsity boys baseball team enjoyed their very first season on our brand new Defender turf field! For the first time in over 20 years, HCA baseball was able to host home games on the HCA campus. This year's League was extremely talented, and included young men from HCA who displayed great commitment to persevering through battles and difficult circumstances. With much hard work and dedication, the team achieved five wins in a row during this season. Head Coach, Aaron Van Dyk, along with Assistant Coaches, Jessey Michaels and Andrew Mui, led their team with strength and wisdom. They also truly appreciated the teamwork and leadership that the seniors modeled to the other teammates. Overall, the boys focused on having fun, doing their best, and giving God the glory with every hit or miss.



MS BOYS BASEBALL

The middle school baseball team's goal this year was to learn the game, improve their skills, and have fun!

They won a few games, made some great plays, caught some unexpected shots, and grew more familiar with the game of baseball.

The highlight of the season was getting to play on the new turf field!



MS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The middle school girls volleyball team experienced a unique coaching staff this season: two high schoolers and a teacher! Mr. Burres, Kali Burres (12), and Megan Mastin (12) joined forces to coach the team in a creative way. They focused on increasing basic skills in all areas, working together to create clean plays, and maintaining a competitive and offensive edge. The group's hard work, dedication, and natural skills made them a successful team that showed much promise for the years to come.



HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD

The 2019 track and field season was filled with many great individual and team accomplishments. Eighteen student-athletes qualified for the league and state sectional championships. The HCA girls finished in fourth place in the league championship, and the boys placed fourth in the sectional championship. Junior Ella Cace (100-meter sprint) and Sophomore Grace Guingon (pole vault) were named League Champions in their respective events, and Senior Ethan Green (long jump), Sophomore Grace Guingon (pole vault), and Junior JJ Jobson (javelin throw) were named Sectional Champions in each of their events.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS BANQUET 2019

The HCA Athletic Department held its 32nd annual High School Sports Awards Banquet on June 3 at Macaluso's in Hawthorne. For the ninth consecutive year, HCA was recognized as the unanimous recipient of the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Award for our League. The following Department Awards were presented:

NJIC (LEAGUE) SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD:

Ethan Green
Lydia Jackson

HCA BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:

Benjamin Maura
Christine Pelliccio

PCCA (COUNTY) STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARD:

Kali Burres
Andrew Pelaschier

HCA DEFENDER ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Gianna D'Amato
Benjamin Maura

CLASS OF 2023

HIGH SCHOOL, HERE WE COME!

"The Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6b



Photo compliments of David Chen Photography

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER AWARD

Joanna Meharg
Elijah Warren

CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Kate Murtagh
Elijah Warren

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Brock Burres
Kate Murtagh

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

Luke Mitchell

PRESIDENT'S EDUCATION AWARD

Julian Hough
Joanna Meharg
Luke Mitchell

8TH GRADE GRADUATES

HCA's 8th graders are headed to high school! These incoming freshmen have a lot to look forward to in the coming years. They will have opportunities to participate in HCA's award-winning musical groups, varsity athletic teams, trip week, and so much more.

This year's middle school graduates are: Christian Arrechea, Brock Burres, Abigail Camacho, Nicholas DeBlock, David Gonzalez, Nathanael Gunawan, Chelsea Hall, Julian Hough, Gianna Iannuzzi, Elizabeth Jones, Maia Kriesel, Tyler Kriney, Joell Lassiter, Brett Littel, Andrew Mark, Joanna Meharg, Luke Mitchell, Kate Murtagh, Suzanna Odusote, Colby Parker, Kaitlan Prioleau, Dylan Salvigsen, Sergio Santiago, Ethan Slavin, Michael Spinelli, Grace Stanley, Jordan Van Duren, Rebekah Varghese, and Elijah Warren.

VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN



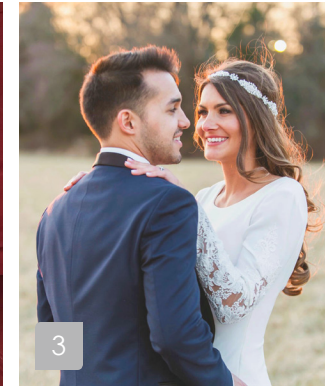
Luke Mitchell and Julian Hough addressed their classmates and the attendees of HCA's middle school graduation ceremony as this year's 8th grade Valedictorian and Salutatorian, respectively.

ALUMNI NEWS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

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

WEDDINGS & BIRTHS



Amanda (Berliner) Bernard and her husband, Chris, announced the birth of their son, Jude Elliot Bernard, on March 6, 2019, at 3:16 AM. Jude joins his older brother, two-year-old Roman Bruce. The Bernards make their home in Englewood, NJ. [1]

Anna (Srigiri) Pennock ('10) and her husband, William, welcomed their first child, William Peter Pennock, on May 14, 2019, at 11:03 PM. The Pennocks currently work with InterVarsity, and live in North Haledon, NJ. [2]

Andrew Brucella ('12) and Christina Michelle Barbaro celebrated their marriage on March 16, 2019, at The Grove at Centerton in Pittsgrove, NJ. Andrew works as an Implementation Manager at a Digital Knowledge Management company, and the couple makes their home in Rutherford, NJ. [3]

Amanda Silva ('12) became Mrs. Matheus Demelo on October 13, 2018, on a beautiful Catskill Mountain day at Handsome Hollow in Long Eddy, NY. [4]



David Seidman
Head of School



Marcia Rainey
Upper School Principal



Donna Pfeiffer
Lower School Principal



Daniel Brown
Assistant to the Head of School



Jennifer Eelman
Director of Guidance



Sandy Vasquez-Chong
Director of Advancement



Ken Burres
Director of Technology



Tyler Van Dyk ('00)
Director of Athletics



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; Pictured: Joshua Hart (PS4)



THE CHIMES

2000 State Route 208
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

**HIGH SCHOOL
TESTIMONIALS**

"At HCA, I am surrounded by people who challenge and encourage me in my faith. Iron sharpens iron, and the relationships I've had at HCA are something I will never take for granted."

-Gianna D'amato, Grade 11

"At HCA, I get a strong education with a Biblical worldview, as well as get to participate in great sports teams and great choirs."

-Philip Duncan, Grade 11

"My teachers always help me with things, whether they are academic or not. HCA doesn't just feel like a school, it feels like a team."

-Olivia Wolleberg, Grade 9



Mia Chandy, Grade 9



WEBSITE
www.hca.org



FACEBOOK
[@HawthorneChristianAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/HawthorneChristianAcademy)



TWITTER
[@HCA_Defenders](https://twitter.com/HCA_Defenders)



INSTAGRAM
[@hawthornechristianacademy](https://www.instagram.com/hawthornechristianacademy)