

THE CHIMES



NEWSLETTER OF HAWTHORNE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



FALL
2019

HCA HOMECOMING 2019

Homecoming 2019 soared to new heights with our first-time-ever hot air balloon rides! Family and friends enjoyed food, games, and a whole lot of fun. Read more on page 5.



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FALL 2019



HAWTHORNE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

OUR MISSION

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

ACCREDITATIONS

Association of Christian Schools International

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools

PHOTO CREDIT

Photos by Ellen Pelliccio & the HCA Yearbook Staff

Cover photo by Olivia Sarnel

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A WORD IN SEASON

A PARTNERSHIP & A LEGACY



DAVID SEIDMAN
Head of School

What are most Christian families looking for in a Christian school? In a survey of Christian school families, parents desired three things, replying that, "Upon graduating, I want my children to..."

1. Be firmly grounded in the truth of God's Word so that through faith they would be able to handle any of life's circumstances.
2. Have the desire, ability, and training to perform in any capacity that the highest cultivation of their talents would allow.
3. Have the desire, ability, and training to enter college and possess those skills necessary for Christian leadership.

The survey was conducted by HCA in 1988, seven years after the Academy opened, in anticipation of its first graduating class!

While the world is a much different place today than it was then, those parental hopes (and the mission of HCA) remain the same. In fact, it could be argued that there is now an even greater need for families to partner with our school community to help build a strong spiritual foundation, as the world continues to draw young people into a secular mindset, chipping away at their spiritual supports.

It is also notable that the survey's first question, *Why did parents choose HCA?* indicated that what is taught and who teaches it are what mold a young person. The two most prevalent responses were:

1. For a sound Christian education.
2. The faculty and staff are committed to the Lord and their relationship with Him will greatly influence our children.

At the heart of HCA is the desire for our parents to continue a legacy of faith in their children. HCA is proud to partner with you in supporting that legacy, while we continue our legacy of providing Christian teacher-mentors and an education that incorporates a Biblical worldview.

We are grateful to the leadership of HGC for the vision to see the Academy become a reality in 1981. Today we are humbled to partner with wonderful Christian families, who are committed to the spiritual growth of their children as well as to a strong education. While the world has changed, our mission has not.

As we approach the holiday season, please remember HCA's faculty, staff, and mission in your prayers. To the next 38 years!

HCA HIGHLIGHTS

CAMPUS FEATURES

HCA CHAPEL

Every Wednesday, our middle and high school chapel bands gather together to lead their fellow classmates in worship during our chapel services.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND:

High school worship leaders are: Maeve Barclay (12), Sofia Bruno (12), Sophia Bucci (11), Christian Chandy (12), Philip Duncan (12), Carson Guingon (12), Claire Guingon (12), Luke Hart (11), Erwin Izeppi (11), Arica LaMantia (10), Gabriela Mallack (11), Joshua Meharg (12), Luke Mitchell (9), Brian Mowad (12), Kayla Oh (10), Adrielle Perde (11), Isaiah Rejouis (12), Joel Roa (11), Lauren Rosoff (12), Ianna Suarez (11), Barbara Tyler (10), Luna Villamil (11), and Christian Webb (11).

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND:

Middle school worship team members are: Keri Andersen (8), Migda-el Baptiste (8), Sophia DiGregorio (8), Lauren Edge (7), Natalie Hanna (8), Ava Hartung (7), Eli Higby (7), Ryan Jones (7), Isaac Lee (7), Brian Manasse (7), Soleille Manasse (8), Matthew Mitchell (7), Gamaliel Perde (7), Kathryn Rappaport (8), and Cecilia Soheily (8).



BUILDING A LEGACY

27 HCA alumni have 34 children enrolled at HCA this year!

[ROW 1]: Julia (PS4), daughter of Emily Gonzalez ('99); Madeleine (K), daughter of Nicole LaGrotteria ('03); Elijah (PS4), son of Stephen Halliwell ('04); Morgan (PS4), daughter of Kirk De Boer ('01); Violet (PS4), daughter of Chad De Boer ('92); Caleb & Ellie (PS3), children of Jacob Minnema ('04); Gideon (PS4), son of Emily Stanley ('06)

[ROW 2]: Theodore (PS4), son of Keith ('04) & Stephanie Nye ('02); Mia (1), daughter of Jaylene Monteiro ('94); Sienna (1), daughter of Kevin & Jennifer Stanford ('95); Josiah (1), son of Diana Robles ('05); Grace (2), daughter of Stephen Halliwell ('04); Connor (1), son of Kirk De Boer ('01); Maggie (1), daughter of Jason Romine ('00); MacKenzie (1), daughter of Matthew ('99) & Nicole Bader ('03); Emma (1), daughter of Julie LaGrotteria ('03)

[ROW 3]: Levi (2), son of Leigh-Ann Gordon ('96); Reagan (3), daughter of Keith ('04) & Stephanie Nye ('02); Olivia (3), daughter of Kevin & Jennifer Stanford ('95); Jane (4), daughter of Jason Romine ('00); Mia (5), daughter of Angel Grant ('03); Ava, Eli, & Cole (7), children of Shane Higby ('90)

[ROW 4]: Ty (10), son of Shane Higby ('90); Jordan (9), daughter of Drew Van Duren ('93); Nicholas (9), son of Rachel DeBlock ('96); Keri (8), daughter of Mike & Katie Andersen ('91); Christopher (11), son of Michael Eelman ('96); Zoe (12), daughter of Shane Higby ('90); Sophia (11), daughter of Joseph ('93) & Marisa Bucci ('95); Erik (11), son of Mike & Katie Andersen ('91); Nicole (12), daughter of Joseph ('93) & Marisa Bucci ('95)

HOMECOMING 2019

WELCOME HOME!



FUN IS IN THE AIR

HCA's 2019 Homecoming was one for the books! In addition to our much-anticipated athletic games (including our annual alumni soccer game), giant bounce house, and barbeque lunch, this year's event hosted one of a kind, first-time-ever hot air balloon rides! As a fundraiser for the senior trip to Disney, the class of 2020

offered tethered rides high into the sky above the HCA turf field and campus. The views were beautiful, and the company was even better. Many thanks to our PTF for all their hard work on this event, and special thanks to HCA parent, Mrs. Kelly Dubé of the "Just Ducky Balloon," for providing and organizing our hot air balloon rides!

ACTIVITIES

-  **HCA ATHLETIC GAMES**
 - Varsity Soccer Games
 - Varsity Volleyball Game
 - Alumni Soccer Game

-  **FUN IN THE SUN**
 - Barbeque Lunch
 - Harvest & Flower Sale
 - Crafts, Games, & S'mores
 - Hot Air Balloon Rides

ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

21ST FALL FUNDRAISER

HOST SPONSORS

KAYAL ORTHOPAEDIC CENTER

RAMSEY AUTO GROUP

BETTY SUE KOELLER

Tuition Aid Endowment

EVENT SPONSOR

FIRST FRUITS FUND

ANOTHER HOLE-IN-ONE!

A gorgeous, sunny Columbus Day at Ballyowen Golf Club, cheerful golfers, and a worthy cause combined to make HCA's twenty-first annual Golf Classic a memorable event. Sponsors and golfers together raised more than \$60,000 to advance the mission of Hawthorne Christian Academy. The proceeds will fund scholarships, enhance student programs, and support the Athletic Department. We are so thankful for the supporters, volunteers, and attendees who contributed to the day's smashing success!



SPECIAL THANKS:

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GOLF AWARDS

LOWEST GROSS SCORE (60)

Vinny Berry Mike Wilkerson
Michael Lill Joshua Abary

MOST HONEST GOLFERS (88)

Ken Karle Stephen Secora
Matt Wolfe Matt Fink

CLOSEST TO THE PIN (#15)

Chuong Le (8'1")

STRAIGHTEST DRIVE (#5)

Rodger Parker

LONGEST DRIVE (MEN'S)

Kevin Campbell

LONGEST DRIVE (LADIES')

Bekah Gaehring



ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

INSPIRE • ACHIEVE • IMPACT

HCA is well into the 2019-2020 school year and our first major fundraiser, the annual HCA Golf Classic, has come and gone. We have only just begun to fulfill the academic, spiritual, and financial needs for this year. This is a challenge we anticipate every year, and we are blessed to see God's hand of provision year after year. There are many ways for you to participate in achieving this goal with us!

We need your **volunteer time** and expertise. We need your **prayers** for and with students,

parents, and faculty. We need your **financial support** to ensure our budgets are met and our new initiatives and programs are funded. Your investment in HCA will multiply in value, as we equip the next generation of leaders with a strong education fortified with Biblical values. It is an eternal investment with the potential for global impact.

Through the generous gifts of your time, prayers, and donations, you have the ability to support HCA and to invest in the future of God's Kingdom.

🎁 YEAR-END

As we approach this holiday season, we ask you to reflect on the blessings that God has given you throughout the year, and to please consider giving a year-end gift to HCA. Thank you for supporting us in becoming all God wants us to be - a reflection of His wisdom and love.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

HGC's building project is well underway, and our students have been enamored and intrigued by the construction taking place on campus. Our kindergarteners have been especially interested, as Mrs. Mirabella has taken this opportunity to conduct a building study for their Social Studies unit. Students observe and record progress, as they learn about building materials, elements of buildings, and types of buildings in communities.



HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

HCA high schoolers spent the first weekend of the year at Camp Shiloh connecting with the Lord and each other. This year's **Spiritual Emphasis Retreat** featured messages from guest speaker, Pastor Jake Minnema, team-building activities, and student-led worship. Jake spoke on this year's school theme, "For His Glory," challenging our students to grow in their God-given gifts and to use them to bring glory to the Gift-Giver.



BLACKOUT DAY

HCA's Student Council hosted an Upper School Blackout Day on Tuesday, October 10. Middle and high school students came to school dressed in all-black to stand in solidarity with the boys soccer team and to watch them beat our rival, EC. To thank the team for their help relocating lower school classrooms over the summer, Mrs. Rainey encouraged her students to dress in black as well, and to attend the game and cheer loudly!



STORM KING ART CENTER

HCA art students spent a day exploring the Storm King Art Center, a 500-acre outdoor museum located in Hudson Valley, where they experienced large-scale sculptures, dynamic exhibitions, and surrounding landscapes. Their visit to Storm King inspired our student-artists to foster their own skills and styles, and to engage more deeply with art and the environment. Thank you, Miss Westerman, for this exciting day!

WE ♥ TO READ!

HCA's lower schoolers were busy at work reading books all summer long! The top readers in each grade were: Asher Pilato (K), 2,394 pages; Penelope Schmookler (1), 4,975 pages; Austin Lee (2), 6,829 pages; Trevor Anzardo (3), 15,765 pages; Megan Sheen (4), 14,419 pages; and Kezia Gunawan (5), 11,248 pages. Way to go!



TOP HONORS

HCA senior, Kaylyn Wang, has earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. Only about 0.2% of over 1.9 million students who took the ACT achieved a perfect score. Additionally, Kaylyn has been named a Commended Student by the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program for her exceptional academic promise.



STUDENT MISSIONS

HERE AM I, SEND ME!



**"GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO ALL CREATION."
MARK 16:15**

2019 MISSIONS

Over the course of the past year, more than 30 HCA middle and high school students participated in missions trips to over eight locations, including Cambodia, Greece, Guatemala, Mexico, Namibia, NJ, PA, and VA. Among these trips were HCA's two 2019 spring break missions trips, coordinated through Touch the World (TTW). Students ministered to the Mam people in Guatemala through VBS ministry, construction projects, and house visits, and supported local church ministries in Greece, distributing food and assisting with work projects.

HCA will again be partnering with TTW to return to Guatemala and Greece this spring break, as well as to Appalachia, KY.

FACULTY FEATURES

WELCOME ABOARD

TEACHERS



MRS. BARCLAY, PS4

Mrs. Barclay comes to HCA with years of experience teaching preschool and lower school, tutoring grades K-8, and serving as the Director of Education at a local Christian preschool.



MRS. PEREZ, GRADE 3

Mrs. Perez joins the HCA family with a degree in English Literature from Rutgers and more than twenty years as a writer and editor at an award-winning travel multimedia company.



MRS. NEVILL, MS MUSIC

Mrs. Nevill takes charge of HCA's MS Music program, with years of experience in vocal performance and a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Montclair State University.



MISS SCHWARTZ, GRADE 4

Miss Schwartz grew up attending Christian schools, and now comes to HCA with a BS in Education and a certification to teach Elementary and Special Education in both NJ and PA.

TEACHERS' AIDES



MRS. BYSTERBUSCH, PS4

Mrs. Bysterbusch has previously taught kindergarten and preschool. She earned degrees from William Paterson University in Anthropology and Elementary Education.



MRS. ROSA, PS4

At the Lord's leading toward elementary education, Mrs. Rosa pursued her CDA certificate. She comes to HCA after working as a teacher's assistant at Manhattan Christian Academy.

ADMINISTRATION



MR. MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL

Mr. Mitchell becomes Upper School Principal after fifteen years in Public Education, eight years as a school administrator, and several years on the HCA Academy Committee.



MRS. TATUM, ADMISSIONS

After four years as the Communications Coordinator on the HCA Advancement Team, Tina Tatum ('12) joins HCA's administration as the Director of Admissions and Marketing.

ACADEMY ATHLETICS

GO DEFENDERS!

GIRLS SOCCER

FINAL RECORD: 6-12

SEASON THEME:

"A Season of Firsts"
"Finish Better than We Started"

TEAM CAPTAIN:

Gianna D'Amato

LEADING SCORERS:

Gianna D'Amato, Sophia Bucci

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

This season's Varsity Boys Soccer theme was *Accountability*. With team talent and conditioning well in hand, the Defenders turned their focus toward being accountable to one another and developing leadership and character.

The team earned a Top-25 ranking in North Jersey, and maintained that status for the entire season. During that stretch, they enjoyed a nine-game win streak and secured a spot in the Semi-Finals of the County Tournament! For the ninth consecutive season, the Defenders qualified for the NJSIAA State Tournament. They finished with a final record of 16-6, tying this season for the 2nd most wins in a season.



VOLLEYBALL

FINAL RECORD: 2-18

SEASON THEME:

"All In, All the Time"

TEAM CAPTAINS:

Alexa Kriesel, Melissa Faber,
Gianna Generoso, Leah Nance

LEADING SCORERS:

Melissa Faber, Camille Webb

X-COUNTRY

SEASON THEME:

"When You Improve a Little,
You Improve a Lot"

TEAM LEADERS:

Sophie Dubé, Olivia Sarnel

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The outstanding attitude of
each runner, in rain or shine

FALL AWARDS



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Christopher Eelman (11): 2nd Team All League; **Andrew Egedy (11):** 2nd Team All League; **Cole Foster (12):** 1st Team All League, 1st Team All County, All State; **Carson Guingon (12):** Honorable Mention All County; **JJ Jobson (12):** Honorable Mention All County; **Shane Littel (12):** Honorable Mention All League; **Joshua Meharg (12):** 1st Team All League, 2nd Team All County, All State; **Brian Mowad (12):** 2nd Team All League; **Mark Schur (11):** 2nd Team All League; **Tyler Van Dyk:** NJIC Patriot Coach of the Year

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

Nicole Bucci (12): Honorable Mention All League; **Sophia Bucci (11):** 2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County; **Gianna D'Amato (12):** 1st Team All League, 1st Team All County; **Zoe Higby (12):** Honorable Mention All County



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Melissa Faber (10): Honorable Mention All League, Honorable Mention All County; **Leah Nance (11):** Honorable Mention All County

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Grace Yang (10): 2nd Team All League, Honorable Mention All County; **Micaela Warren (11):** Honorable Mention All League, Honorable Mention All County; **John-Marco Tatarian (12):** Honorable Mention All County



THANK YOU, TRIPLE PLAY SPONSORS!

- Atlantic Stewardship Bank
- Columbia Bank
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- New Life Driving School
- Ramsey Auto Group
- Reiner Group, Incorporated
- Window City, Incorporated

MUSIC NOTES

AND ALL THAT JAZZ



ALL-STATE CHORUS

HCA student-musicians, Philip Duncan (12), Maeve Barclay (12), and Kayla Oh (10) were selected from among thousands of New Jersey high school students to participate in the 2019 All-State Chorus! This year's All-State Chorus was held in conjunction with the NJEA Convention in Atlantic City on November 6-8, 2019. New Jersey's most talented students gathered to participate in several rehearsals over the last few months, culminating in concerts by the All-State Chorus, Orchestra, and Jazz Band held at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City (November 8) and NJPAC (November 17). Congratulations to these talented and hard-working students!



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS

Middle School Chorus is under new management! Mrs. Christine Nevill is taking the helm of this talented group of 54 students who love to sing and praise the Lord by performing music on and off campus. Mrs. Nevill trained under our own Mrs. Paynter for many years, and has both degrees and experience in Music Education and Vocal Performance. She leads the Middle School Chorus members in rehearsal during lunch twice a week. This year, the Middle School chorus participated for the first time in Thanksgiving Chapel, where they enchanted audiences with *Et In Terra Pax* ("And on Earth, Peace").

MUSIC EVENTS

NURSING HOME TOUR

Servants of the King embarked on a "Nursing Home Tour" on Friday, September 25. They visited with the residents of Van Dyk Park Place (Hawthorne), Brandywine Senior Living (Mahwah), and the Holland Home (North Haledon), and brought the message of the Gospel in the form of hymns and spirituals. This day of ministry and music blessed both the senior citizens and the students!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 12/05: LS Christmas Concert
- 12/08: Grace Bible Concert
- 12/10: MS/HS Christmas Concert
- 12/13: Barnes & Noble Fundraiser
- 12/15: HGC Worship Services
- 12/18: Carnegie Getty Concert

ALUMNI NEWS

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



MEGAN TESCHON ('10) married Alexander La Manna on Sept. 22, 2019, at the New York Country Club in Spring Valley, NY. The couple met as attendees of a small group young adults' Bible study at Emergence Church.



SAMANTHA (ABMA) DYKSTRA ('12) and her husband, Ryan, announced the birth of their second son, Theodore James Dykstra, on July 6, 2019. Sam, Ryan, and their two boys make their home in Bloomingdale, NJ.



KATELYN HLAD AND DANIEL DEBOER ('14) celebrated their marriage on Oct. 14, 2019, at Waterloo Village in Stanhope, NJ. The couple lives in Madison, WI, where Dan works as an engineer and Katelyn pursues her MSW.



PHILIPP PRINZ ('07) AND BENJAMIN PRINZ ('10), Co-Founders and Managing Partners of **Agilis Partners** (with alumni parent, Eduardo Brown, Chairman), were awarded the 2019 Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence (ACE) by the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. Agilis is the largest grain and oil seed producer in Uganda, feeding over 500,000 consumers in East Africa annually.

ADMINISTRATION



DAVID SEIDMAN
Head of School (Advancement)



TODD MITCHELL
Upper School Principal



MARCIA RAINEY
Lower School Principal



DANIEL BROWN
Assistant to the Head of School



TINA TATUM (Chimes Editor)
Director of Admissions & Marketing



JENNIFER EELMAN
Director of Guidance Services



KENNETH BURRE
Director of Technology



TYLER VAN DYK
Director of Athletics

THE CHIMES

2000 State Route 208
Hawthorne, NJ 07506



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

"The community and family at HCA are supportive and loving. The environment is Christ-centered, and strives for further personal, spiritual, physical, and academic excellence."

JOANNA MEHARG, GRADE 9

"The greatest benefit of being at HCA is that we are always able to bring Jesus into the conversation, no matter the subject."

ELIJAH WARREN, GRADE 9

"HCA has helped me grow as a leader and as a person, and has provided me with godly friends and mentors."

ADRIELLE PERDE, GRADE 11

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