

# THE CHIMES

HCA NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2021



## **Congratulations, Class of 2021!**

Michael and Katie (Klock) Andersen walked across HGC's stage to receive their HCA diplomas in 1991. 30 years later, their son, Eric (valedictorian), follows in their footsteps.

Read more about HCA's 2021 graduates on pages 8-9.



**HAWTHORNE**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**Our Mission**

Hawthorne Christian Academy is committed to inspire and equip students to **grow** in 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



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Cover photo by David Chen

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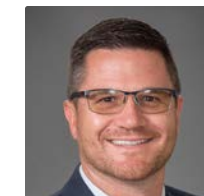
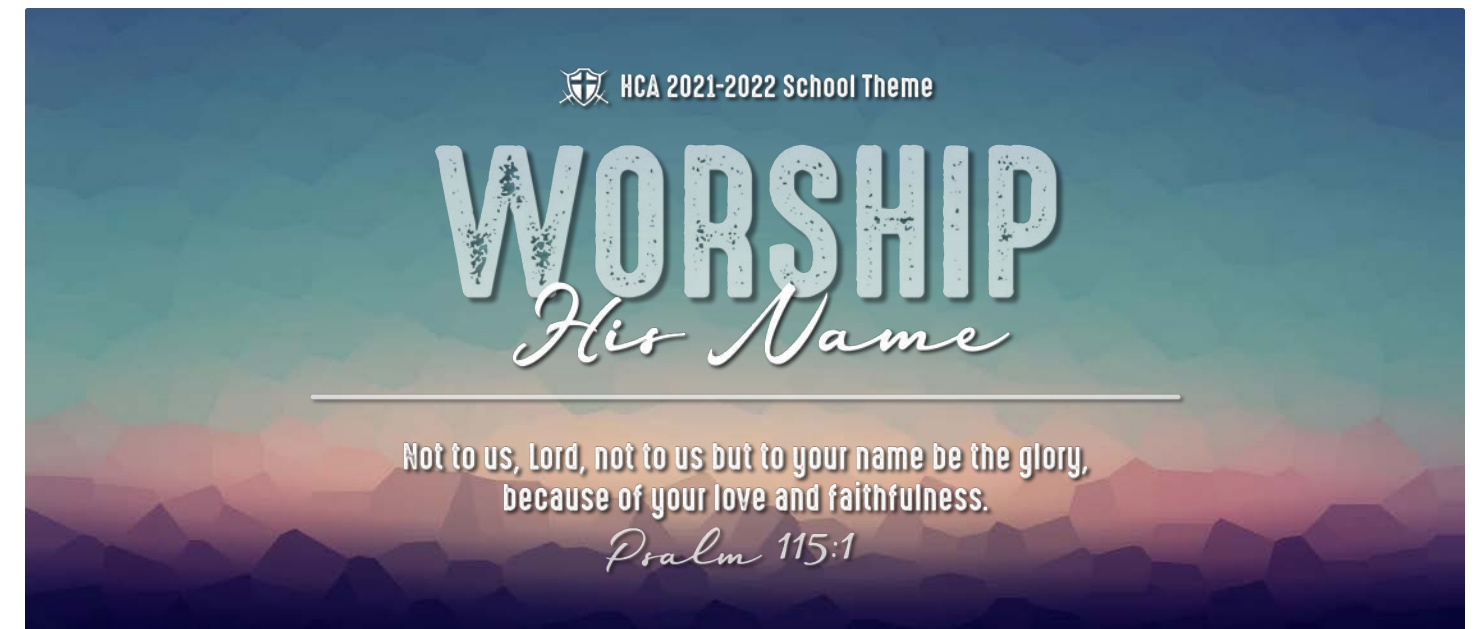
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# A Word In Season

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



TODD MITCHELL  
Head of School

## Worship His Name!

"Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever" (Psalm 111:2-3). When we consider God's loving-kindness, how can we keep from worshipping His Holy Name? At HCA, we are in awe of how gracious the Lord was as He protected our campus this past year. We marvel at the blessing of over 130 new students for 2021-2022 who will have the opportunity to learn and grow through a Biblical Worldview. And we praise God for the faithfulness of those who give generously in support of His work through this ministry. Certainly God is good and greatly to be praised.

As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, let us not forget that, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). How great is our assurance that we know the God who does not change, the God who is holy, and the God who is sovereign, working all things together for His glory and "the good of those who love Him, who have

been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28b). He is wholly worthy of all the glory, all the honor, and all the praise. To that end, our 2021-2022 school theme is "Worship His Name." The school verse is Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." This theme and verse should lead us to: 1) Worship God in spirit and truth, 2) Worship Him and not ourselves, and 3) Know and understand the names of God and how they help us to worship Him.

Throughout this new year, we challenge each student, family, and friend of HCA to meditate on what an amazing God we have, to keep our eyes fixed on Him, and to put our own interests aside so that we may worship the LORD in all we do. As the very first step, I encourage you to sit down with your family and meditate on Psalm 145 as we worship our awesome God. "My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever" (Psalm 145:21). May all we do at HCA bring glory to His name during this school year and always!

## HCA Leadership Team



TODD MITCHELL  
Head of School



KEN BURRESS  
Director of Technology & Virtual Instruction



TINA TATUM  
Director of Admissions & Marketing (Chimes Editor)



MARCIA RAINEY  
Principal



JEN EELMAN  
Director of Guidance



TYLER VAN DYK  
Director of Athletics

# 40 Years of God's Faithfulness

CELEBRATING 1981-2021



JOHN MINNEMA  
Senior Pastor,  
HGC

## Inspiring & Equipping Since 1981

In 586 BC, the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem. They burned the temple, the royal palace and other buildings, broke down the walls, killed many and carried off the rest into captivity (2 Kings 25). Over a century later, the city still laid in ruins.

The book of Nehemiah tells the amazing story of how God, in the midst of despair, raised up a man, Nehemiah, who would lead the rebuilding of the wall. Through answered prayer and God's provision, the work began, despite many obstacles and opposition. People from all occupations were involved, and "the people worked with all their hearts" (Nehemiah 3, 4:6). However, as the work progressed, challenges and resistance increased. With steadfast focus, Nehemiah resisted the temptation to stop building and responded, "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down" (Nehemiah 6:4). Remarkably, the wall was completed in 52 days. Nehemiah commented that it was a testimony of God's grace to the surrounding nations "because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God" (Nehemiah 6:16).

As we celebrate our 40th anniversary as an Academy, we too can look back at the wonderful blessings and see that the "work has been done with the help of our God!" Having been here since the beginning of Hawthorne Christian Academy, I have a unique perspective of the blessing we have seen over the years. Starting a Christian school certainly was not easy, and we, as the people of Judah, faced many obstacles and challenges. Our motivation from the very beginning was our vision **to teach children from a Biblical perspective, equipping them to become fully devoted followers of Christ.**

As we continually committed our vision to prayer, we sensed God's leading, saw His provision, and as a result, our HCA began in 1981.

Thankfully, just as in Nehemiah's day, God raised

up many wonderful, godly, dedicated people for the task, many of whom are with the Lord today. Precious people who selflessly gave their time, energy, and resources because they were "carrying on a great project," serving the Lord, and were determined to keep going despite the hurdles. Others became excited about what God was doing and joined in, pouring their time, energy and resources into the task. Many served on our Academy Committee and along with others, selflessly gave of themselves, working "with all their hearts," serving the Lord.

Undoubtedly, a primary reason for the continued success of our school is God's provision of our teachers, leaders, and staff. Those involved in education know that a school can only be as good as the teachers and staff. Christ-like, dedicated, enthusiastic, committed, and precious are words that come to my mind as I reflect on our current and past teachers, leaders, and staff. Inspired by our vision, they have always poured themselves into the task, loving our students, giving of themselves, motivated by the ultimate privilege of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout the years, I have seen the same steadfastness and earnestness, persistence, and determination evident in Nehemiah's day in the lives of many who have had a part of this special work of God. These are the special people that make Hawthorne Christian Academy shine!

Admittedly, in the beginning, there was great concern about the large amount of resources needed to begin and sustain a Christian school, but God's people stepped out in faith. In addition to the facilities and daily needs of our Academy, our church has also continuously provided for all of the ongoing maintenance on the buildings (upkeep, repairs, cleaning, heating, cooling, etc.). As I look at our campus with all the beautiful buildings and field, I am in awe of God's provision through His people over the years.

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

Building has never stopped over the past 40 years, which has required planning, energy, dedication, and great resources. I am rejoicing that just last year, for the first time in 40 years, all our building debt has been paid in full! **The predominate thing that stands out over all the years is God's incredible faithfulness in providing our needs through His people.**

God's Word says, "...whoever sows generously will also reap generously..." (2 Corinthians 9:6). Sincere thanks, from the bottom of my heart, for all God's people who have been so big-hearted, who have sown so generously. As a result, we have reaped generously of God's abundant blessing. **The fruit: Children, young people, and adults who know Jesus and love Him!** Brothers and sisters in Christ who know God's Word and are growing in Him! Graduates who love Jesus and desire to be fully devoted followers of Him. And as in Nehemiah's day, we

"...realized that this work has been done with the help of our God" (Nehemiah 6:16).

Thankful for the past, we look ahead to the future! In the days ahead, we will need even greater resources and more people who will devote themselves to the task of serving the Lord. However, if we remain faithful to Him and His Word, we can be assured that our mighty God who has provided for all our needs in the past will continue to do so in the days ahead.

The future will provide wonderful opportunities to serve and glorify God and to see the fruit of people who know, love, and serve Him. Many years before the Academy began, among members of our church family that are mostly all with Jesus, attention was drawn to these special words that still reflect our future perspective:

**"God has yet greater things for His people."**

## Worldview Matters!

You've probably heard HCA faculty and families say, "HCA teaches students through a Biblical Worldview." You may have thought, "Well, it has the word 'Biblical' so it must be good." You're right, it is good! But what is a worldview? Simply stated, a person's worldview is what one believes that influences how one lives. Everyone has a worldview that influences how they view the world and make day-to-day decisions about what to believe, say, and do. There are many worldviews, but only one that is built on truth.

At HCA we know that the Bible is inerrant, authoritative, and sufficient and therefore should be the foundation of how we live as Christians. As such, our goal is to teach that the Bible is true, trustworthy, and the authority on life. We teach the Bible in order to shape beliefs and to equip students to apply God's Word to their life for the good of others and the glory of God! This is the heart of a Biblical Worldview.

Unfortunately, our children's worldview is under attack. The world is hopeless, lost, and confused. So much so that the Barna group research on worldview demonstrated that

88% of Americans shared a worldview comprised of an amalgamation of different religions, cultures, and schools of thought. Barna calls this syncretism. The Bible says that the way to combat this confusion is to be "built up until we all reach the unity of faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God." Ephesians continues, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming."

Here are some tips to foster a Biblical Worldview in your home: 1) Read your Bible everyday, 2) Teach your child to read the Bible and read it with them, 3) Ask, "What does the Bible say about that?" 4) Use the Bible to point out the errors of other worldviews, and 5) Model a life built on the Bible. May the Lord soften the hearts of our children to know and live the truth that is only found in His Holy Word.



TODD MITCHELL  
Head of School

# Annual Banquet & Auction

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

## A Night of Celebration

HCA's Annual Banquet and Silent Auction, held on Thursday, May 13, at Macaluso's in Hawthorne, was a well-attended, celebratory event! It was a joy to be able to gather together to celebrate all that God has done for HCA over the past 40 years. The gratefulness was palpable. HGC Senior Pastor, John Minnema, briefly recounted the history of HCA with beautiful words of affirmation for the faculty and staff. Head of School, Todd Mitchell, presented Nurse Chi Chi Van Dyk with flowers in appreciation for her long-standing service to HCA. Academy Committee Chair, Paul Egedy, was recognized for his many years as a parent, volunteer, and board member. He has graduated along with his son onto the next chapter of his life.

Throughout the night, guests enjoyed good food, hearty laughter, and fun auction rivalry. The event successfully



ELLEN PELLICCIO  
Development Coordinator

raised \$123,000! We are incredibly humbled to see how God uses His people to meet the needs of the Academy. We want to especially thank the Host Sponsors: Columbia Bank, Kayal Orthopaedic, and The Betty Sue Koeller Tuition Aid Endowment Fund; Platinum Sponsors: The Hart Family and Ramsey Auto Group; Gold Sponsors: Brothers Carpet & Flooring, PrintSolutions, and Regency Wealth Management; Silver Sponsor: New Life Driving; and Table Sponsors: The How Family, The Kudisch Family, The Mitchell Family, and The Storms Family.

40 years is quite a milestone, which you, our HCA faculty, staff, parents, students, and donors, have helped make possible! "May the Lord give you increase, you and your children! May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth!" (Psalm 115:14-15).



## 40 YEARS Thank You, 2021 Banquet Sponsors!

### HOST SPONSORS

Columbia Bank  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Kayal & Kayal Orthopaedic  
The Betty Sue Koeller Tuition Aid Endowment Fund

### TABLE SPONSORS

Pastor and Mrs. Kirk De Boer  
The How Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Gregg Kudisch  
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Mitchell  
Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Storms

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The Van Duren Family & Ramsey Auto Group

### GOLD SPONSORS

Brothers Carpet & Flooring  
PrintSolutions  
Regency Wealth Management

### SILVER SPONSOR

Dr. Marcia and Mr. Paul Egedy & New Life Driving

# Gallery Walk & Conservatory

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITS & INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL



## Art Exhibits



ELIZABETH WESTERMAN  
4th-12th Grade Art Teacher

### Lower School Project Fair

What a joy it was for Lower School students to welcome their families into their classrooms after parents were not allowed inside the buildings all year due to Covid restrictions. Each class created a different project to showcase what they learned throughout the year. The hallways were decorated with student work, as well as a plethora of artwork created in Mrs. Philippy and Miss Westerman's art classes. The evening was truly a fun family night!

### Middle & High School Gallery Walk

One of the joys of teaching is seeing the God-given talents that develop and reveal themselves in our students. In the 2020-2021 school year, six Senior Studio Art students created a series of pieces in mediums of their choice, demonstrating awareness of materials, processes, and techniques. In class, students learned about expressing ideas visually by digging deep into the subject, increasing awareness of social, cognitive, and emotional intelligences. Peer critiques allowed students to practice giving and receiving constructive feedback, which requires vulnerability, openness, and sensitivity. The program culminated in a Senior Capstone exhibit at HCA's annual Gallery Walk, where students greeted gallery visitors. Thank you to all who attended this event and supported our students. Congratulations to our seniors of 2021, Nelly Cyryn, Rachel How, Erwin Izeppi, Gabriela Mallack, Ianna Suarez, and Micaela Warren for a job well done!

## Conservatory Recital

While this year's HCA Music Conservatory was a little different from previous years, it was still exciting and entertaining as ever! The program began with the 4th and 5th grade solo and group ensembles. Their performances included: "Au Clair De La Lune," "Pink Panther," "Amazing Grace," "Ode To Joy," and more! Our lower school students performed incredibly well, had fun, and presented like professionals.

Our 6-12 Concert Band followed, performing two fun songs: "Happy" and the "Star Wars Theme." As a surprise, we asked the audience if they would like to hear an encore piece. I disclosed that the band had only been practicing this song for about 2 weeks. The band then played "It Don't Mean A Thing, If It Ain't Got That Swing" with unbelievable excitement and accuracy. The Conservatory was an overall success with all the glory given to God!



JOHN PETERSON  
4th-12th Grade Instrumental Teacher

## STEM Market

HCA's 5th graders participated in the first-ever STEM Market Project in June 2021. Students learned about innovation, economics, and marketing throughout the year in STEM class. They each chose a product to make, created a product logo, and sold their wares at the STEM Market. Students also learned the Biblical principles of money management. Most students even returned a profit from their hard-earned efforts!



KIM BURRES  
LS STEM & GATES Teacher

# The HCA Graduating Class of 2021

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Photo compliments of David Chen Photography

**Row 1:**

Erwin Izeppi ..... Kean University  
 Eric Andersen\*\*+ ..... Gordon College  
 Aaron Feliciano ..... Undecided  
 Loren Lynch ..... Undecided  
 Micaela Warren ..... Montclair State University  
 Grace Guingon\*\*+ ..... Liberty University  
 Adrielle Perde ..... Montclair State University  
 Cormac Murtagh ..... Bergen Community  
 Mark Schur ..... Liberty University  
 Joshua Joseph ..... Bergen Community

**Row 2:**

Luke Hart+ ..... Gordon College  
 Brian Sanchez\*\*+ ..... Cornell University  
 Christian Burres ..... Lancaster Bible College  
 Colleen Moran\*+ ..... The College of New Jersey  
 Cristina D'Amato ..... Eastern University  
 Naomi Ng\* ..... Undecided  
 Rachel How\*\*+ ..... Rochester Institute of Tech

Nelly Cyrin\*+ ..... Stony Brook University  
 Jaiden Fuller\*\*+ ..... University of Connecticut  
 Michael Novak ..... Word of Life Bible Institute  
 Andrew Egedy\*\*+ ..... Clemson University

**Row 3:**

Christopher Eelman+ ..... Cairn University  
 Ryan Smith ..... Fairleigh Dickinson University  
 Henry Hagedorn ..... Eastern University  
 Joel Roa ..... Berkeley College  
 Gabriela Mallack\*\*+ ..... Cedarville University  
 Ianna Suarez\*\*+ ..... Eastern University  
 Leah Nance ..... Temple University  
 Luna Villamil ..... Wofford College  
 Jayson Gonzalez ..... Manhattan College  
 Cliff Connell ..... Undecided  
 Michael Lamitola ..... Cairn University  
 Christian Webb ..... Chattanooga Community

\*Honors, \*\*High Honors, +NHS

## Valedictorian & Salutatorians

**Valedictorian: Erik Andersen**

Erik shared the insights he gleaned from a book called *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners*. He remarked on the irony that Jesus, being all-powerful, has a lowly heart, while humans, being limited in power, have hearts obsessed with gaining it.

Erik urged his peers, no matter how much power or success they may gain over the course of their lives, to let God

create a heart that reflects Christ's, being gentle and lowly above all else.

**Salutatorian: Andrew Egedy**

As Andrew shared his reflections on HCA experiences, he expressed confidence in the spiritual, academic, and physical preparation received to defend their faith and equip them for future challenging circumstances. He encouraged all to stand on the Word of God in defense of Biblical truths.



ERIC MICHAEL ANDERSEN  
2021 Valedictorian



ANDREW PAUL EGEDY  
2021 Salutatorian

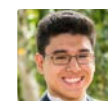


INGRID NAWYN  
Guidance & Registrar

**Salutatorian: Brian Sanchez**

In his address to his classmates, Brian quoted Proverbs 3:6, which reminds us of full, open-handed submission to God of our aspirations, dreams, careers, family, and life.

Brian reminded his peers of the need for us to decrease and God to increase, enabling us to listen to God's voice and Him to place us where we are needed for plans greater than our own.



BRIAN ALEJANDRO SANCHEZ  
2021 Salutatorian

## 2021 Scholarships & Awards

**PTF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE**

**Academic Excellence Scholarship**

Erik Andersen (Valedictorian)  
 Andrew Egedy & Brian Sanchez (Salutatorians)

**All-Around Excellence Scholarship**

Luke Hart

**FAITHFUL SCHOLAR AWARD SCHOLARSHIP**

**Attended HCA Since Kindergarten:**

Erik Andersen, Christopher Eelman, Andrew Egedy, Luke Hart, Joshua Joseph, Michael Lamitola, Micaela Warren

**JACOB EGEDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Cristina D'Amato & Christopher Eelman

**BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Athletic Booster Club Scholarship**

Christopher Eelman & Gabriela Mallack

**Music Booster Club Scholarship**

Leah Nance & Adrielle Perde

**RONNIE & RENEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Michael Novak

**ACOSTA HISPANIC GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

Ianna Suarez

**ROD INNIS "WALK IN TRUTH" SCHOLARSHIP**

Gabriela Mallack

# HCA Class of 2025

HIGH SCHOOL, HERE WE COME!

## Graduation Prayer

**Our Father Who Art in Heaven,**

**Hallowed Be Thy Name:**

Let us glorify it in everything we do. Let it not be dishonored, and let us always speak your name with a boastful tone as we grow in your Word.

**Thy Kingdom Come:**

And let the wisdom of your servants at HCA continue to prepare us for your coming.

**Your Will Be Done:**

Not our will but yours, and let it lead us into the coming years with strength and courage, and may we follow it with diligence and never stray away from your light.

**On Earth as it is in Heaven:**

Let us always think of how great you created the world and the people in it, with such detail and design, how thoughtful you were, and not a single hair out of place, unless you wish it to be.

**Give Us this Day our Daily Bread:**

We thank you God not only for the food you allow us to eat, but the clothes you give us to wear... for the teachers and parents at HCA who have supported us through our Middle School Years...

**And Forgive Us our Trespases As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us:**

God I pray that we may all love like you and forgive the people who have ever wronged us, and that we may do it with an open heart and not with one that is full of hatred.

**And Lead Us Not Into Temptation:**

As the evil one continues to try and deceive us, we thank you for being the One who constantly strengthens us and will continue to strengthen us...

**Thank you for Delivering Us From Evil.**

**For Thine is the Kingdom, The Power, The Glory, Forever and Ever. Amen.**



Photo compliments of David Chen Photography

## Headed to High School

These thirty-seven middle school graduates are now high school freshmen! HCA's class of 2025 8th-grade grads were:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Franshesca Beltre       | Isaac Dae-Hee Lee        |
| Joseph Matthew Betz     | Joseph Eubin Lee         |
| Zacharias Daniel Burres | Gianna Marie Liberali    |
| Rachel Kiara Bustamante | Josias Lopez             |
| Grace Lyann Cintron     | Brian Thomas Manasse     |
| Hannah Nahid Cintron    | Matthew Todd Mitchell    |
| Jayden Tyler Dachis     | Mia Billie Morales       |
| Lauren Elizabeth Edge   | Joy Ee-Seul Park         |
| Alina Evelyn Ellis      | Gamaliel Amos Perde      |
| Maxwell John Hagan      | Hugh Griffith Ryan       |
| Ava Rose Hartung        | Timothy Ashraf Said      |
| Landon Leone Hawthorne  | Yoav Barak Sered         |
| Ava Barbara Higby       | Alexandra Hope Slavin    |
| Cole Richard Higby      | Conor William Smith      |
| Eli Robert Higby        | Robert Joseph Taylor     |
| Peter Emmanuel How      | Neha Amy Venugopal       |
| Ryan Christopher Jones  | Mitchell David Wang      |
| Victoria Renee Jones    | Angelina Rose Wollemberg |
| Greyson Landru          |                          |



GRADUATION PRAYER BY:  
**Gamaliel Amos Perde, HCA Class of 2025**

# Student Spotlight

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Lower School Highlights



MARCIA RAINEY  
**Lower School Principal**

### What is that Red Thing on the Chicken?

We brought a bit of the farm to school this spring when seven chickens visited Lower School. Mr. Ryan Lewis, HGC Director of Maintenance, taught about the life of a chicken and their anatomy. Students got to feed the chickens and feel their various textures. We hope the chickens enjoyed their day at HCA and will come again soon!

### 5th Grade Clap Out

On the last day of school, students and families lined the sidewalks and covered stairwell with posters, balloons, and hand clappers to celebrate our 5th grade graduates as they paraded by. The parade ended at the school bell where former principal, Mrs. Pfeiffer, and 5th-grade teacher, Mrs. Ruppert, prayed a blessing on the graduates.

## Music Notes

Making music during Covid has been a challenge. But despite the difficulties presented by masking and distancing protocols, HCA choirs were busy singing praises and spreading God's Word everywhere they went this spring. On April 24, Chorale visited area nursing homes to give outdoor concerts. Residents at the Holland Home, Christian Healthcare Center, Clover Hill, and Brandywine enjoyed the sunshine as they listened to hymns, spirituals, and concert pieces, and truly enjoyed interacting with our students after a long, isolated winter. On May 28, Middle School Chorus, the 8th grade choir and handbells, Servants of the King, Chorale, and Allegro and Prelude Handbells all participated in a Musical Worship Service in the Sanctuary, leading parents and friends in a night of encouraging song and Scripture. Finally, after several postponements, the Middle School Chorus, Chorale, and Servants of the King participated in the Music in the Parks

## 4th Grade Measures Up!

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 4th grade class for placing 2nd in the state and 9th in the nation for First in Math (FIM)! FIM is an online math tool utilizing over 200 games to strengthen fact fluency, computational thinking, and other vital math skills. 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Hwang, sums up her excitement, saying, "In 4th grade, FIM was used to strengthen math minds, to promote a growth mindset, and to challenge kids to think critically. As a result, students grew in confidence, learned to set goals, and achieved rankings and sticker count like no other year in HCA's history with FIM. Students left 4th grade loving math! Hallelujah!"



competition at Six Flags on June 5. It was a wonderful day of celebration and thanksgiving for God's blessings. Each group came away with Superior ratings and 1st place trophies in their division. In addition, Servants of the King won Best Overall High School Choir, Middle School Chorus won Best Overall Middle School Choir, and Tyler Kriney, class of 2023, won the Outstanding Soloist Award. It was a special day, and a fun climax to a year full of hard work by our choirs! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



ANNE PAYNTER  
**Middle & High School Music Teacher**

# Academy Athletics

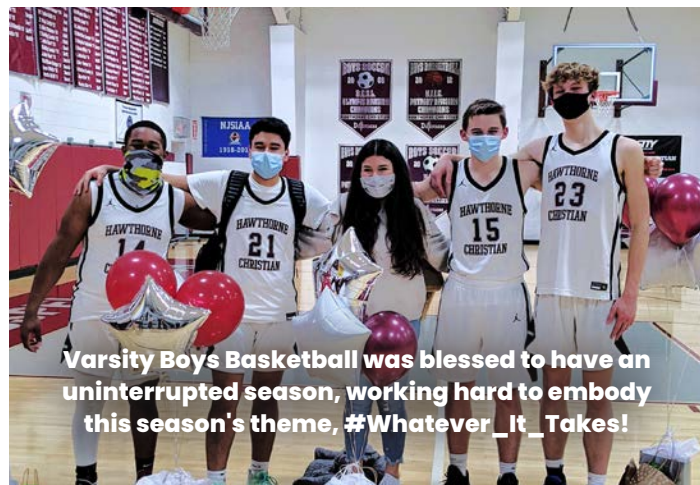
GO DEFENDERS!



## High School Track & Field

HCA Track and Field is back on track! Athletes and coaches felt blessed to experience a full season. Over a third of HCA athletes qualified for league and state championships!

Andrew Mark finished 3rd in 400 hurdles and 4th in the 400 in the league championships. Andrew finished 3rd in the state in the non-public B state championship, Mark Schur finished 5th in the 100 meter and 4th in the 200 meter in league championships. Cristina D'Amato finished 3rd in high jump in league championships. Andrew (400 hurdles) and Cristina (high jump) advanced all the way to the meet of champions, making them the 7th and 8th athletes in HCA history to advance to the meet of champions.



Varsity Boys Basketball was blessed to have an uninterrupted season, working hard to embody this season's theme, #Whatever\_It\_Takes!



Varsity Girls Basketball was grateful to participate in indoor sports this past year, displaying incredible attitudes and flexibility!



High School Bowling's team of 4 gave dedication to the game, increasing their averages with impressive numbers throughout the season.

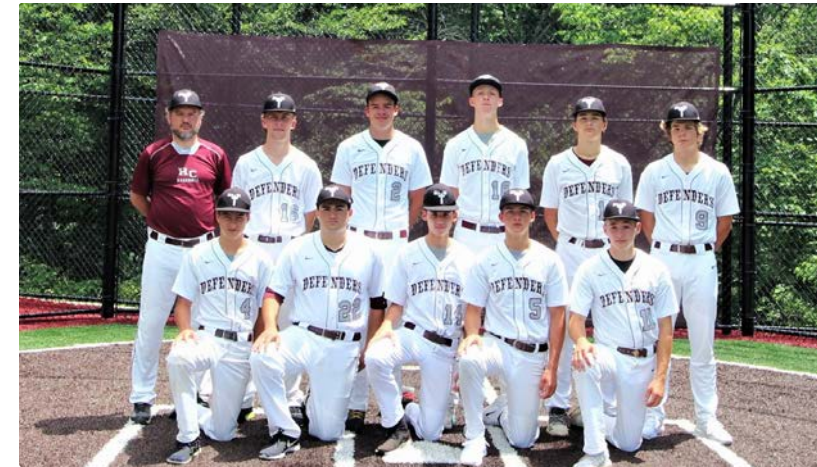


Varsity Girls Volleyball had a short, learn-as-you-go season, focused on positivity, goal-setting, hard work, and dedication.

## On the Diamond



ELLEN PELLICCIO  
Development Coordinator



## Varsity Boys Baseball

This was a history-making season for HCA Baseball! HCA entered into its first season as a co-op team with Eastern Christian. This alone was epic. HCA had already been building a stronger baseball team pre-pandemic, and with the addition of the EC athletes, the Defenders experienced a winning season. The team got off to a roaring start with seven wins in a row. At one point during the season, the team was ranked #18 in the North Jersey top 25, which is an historical accomplishment for HCA. They were seeded #8 in the county tournament, qualified for the state tournament after 20 years, and hosted a home tournament game. The winning season wrapped up with a 10-8 record. The team played solid defense throughout the season, which truly contributed to their success.



## Girls Softball

Abigail Camacho, Gabriela Mallack, and Daniella Palacios experienced their first season of teaming up with Eastern Christian's softball team. The team was ranked #4 in the state tournament bracket and finished the season with a 9-11-1 record. The team made huge improvements in hitting throughout the season. Although HCA and EC are rivals in other sports, the girls meshed well and joined forces to become one in Christ.

## 2021 Sports Awards

The HCA Athletic Department was recognized for the tenth consecutive year as the unanimous recipient of the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Award. This vote is made by the Athletic Directors in the League based on the overall Sportsmanship demonstrated by student-athletes, teams, coaches and fans with input from the athletic administration, coaches and other school officials within the NJIC Conference. Congrats, Defenders!

### HCA Athletic Department Awards

#### NJIC Sportsmanship Award

Cristina D'Amato  
Luke Hart

#### PCCA Scholar Athlete of the Year

Gabriela Mallack  
Andrew Egedy

#### NJSIAA Scholar Athlete of the Year Scholarship Award

Andrew Egedy

#### Defender Female Athlete of the Year

Gabriela Mallack

#### Defender Male Athlete of the Year

Christopher Eelman

#### Booster Club Scholarship Award

Gabriela Mallack  
Christopher Eelman



# Faculty Commencement

## HONORING OUR RETIREES



### Mrs. Lynn Baggini

HS SCIENCE TEACHER

**Time at HCA:** 31 Years

**Classes Taught:** High School Biology, Chemistry, and Anatomy & Physiology

After 31 years of faithful service, Mrs. Baggini has started her retirement from teaching. Mrs. Baggini has taught Chemistry, Biology and Anatomy & Physiology to HCA students since 1990. Although many credit their basics in the sciences to her teaching, Mrs. Baggini will be remembered as a hard-working homeroom teacher, faithful servant, and prayer warrior. As a homeroom teacher, Mrs. Baggini followed students for their paperwork, started their day

with worship and prayer, and made many meatball sandwiches from her famous recipe. As a faithful servant, she supported the HCA academic and athletic community by taking on teaching responsibilities, filming games, and chaperoning trips (to name only a few details). As a prayer warrior, Mrs. Baggini remembered the prayer requests of students, faculty, and the HCA ministry, in class and privately. Everyone knew that if she said she would pray for you, you were prayed for. These are only the visible remembrances of Mrs. Baggini's legacy. Only her Lord and Savior knows the full extent of this faithful servant's work. The faculty and students of HCA will miss her greatly. We know Mrs. Baggini will still be praying for HCA and we pray for her transition into retirement.



JANE BRAIN

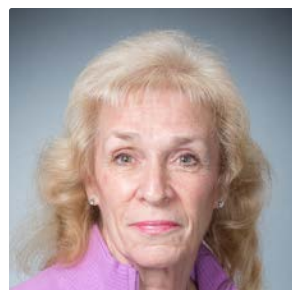
**P.E. Chair & HS Learning Center**

## Lower School Retirees



MARCIA RAINEY

**Lower School Principal**



### Mrs. Merriman

LS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Time at HCA:** 26 Years

**Role at HCA:** Lower School Office Receptionist & Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Merriman's first act of service to HCA was in 1980 when HGC's Pastor Harris asked her to create a contact database for the purpose of starting a Christian school. Since that time, Mrs. Merriman transitioned to working for HCA, and served for 26 years in the Lower School Office under four principals. She says she enjoyed spending her days with the children at HCA. She is now spending her days with her own grandchildren and family. Thank you, Mrs. Merriman, for taking such good care of us for so many years!



### Mrs. Pfeiffer

LS AIDE & FORMER PRINCIPAL

**Time at HCA:** 16 Years

**Roles at HCA:** Lower School Principal, 5th Grade Teacher, Lower School Aide

Mrs. Pfeiffer is retiring after 16 years of fruitful ministry at HCA. Mrs. Pfeiffer joined the HCA team in 2004 as a 5th grade teacher, then for the next 15 years served as Lower School Principal. During her principalship, the preschool grew to 3 classes and she started the annual Lower School Project Fair. Additionally, Mrs. Pfeiffer led the 2005 ACSI re-accreditation. We are thankful for her leadership and service to the HCA community! She is looking forward to relocating to Lancaster, Pennsylvania in the near future.

# Alumni News

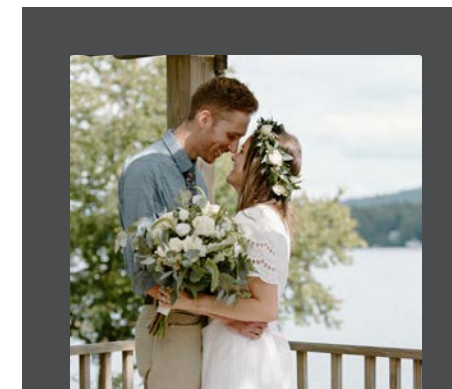
## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Joshua Butler, Class of 2017



I am excited to share about my new calling for post-graduation life. In October, I will begin a year-long cross-cultural missions internship with United World Mission in Senegal, Africa. I will function as an "intern guinea pig," assisting the leadership team in creating a sustainable internship experience that has not previously been offered. In addition to developing that program, I will also be exposed to various aspects of missions, such as: evangelism in a majority Muslim context, gaining literacy of a foreign culture and language as it relates to the Gospel, and participation with

local Great Commission organizations. I have particularly found Paul's words in Ephesians 2:8-10 to give me peace and excitement in this calling, knowing that I am redeemed by grace alone and have been purposefully, "created in union with the Messiah Yeshua for a life of good actions already prepared by God for us to do" (CJB). What a joy to know that as we say "yes" to the Holy Spirit's leading we are living the life God prepared for us. For me, Senegal is the next prepared good, and I am humbled to share the journey with my HCA family, who planted the seeds of missions during my time as a student.



**Seth Brown ('12)** married his bride, Chloe Derrenbacher, on August 7, 2020, in Old Forge, New York.

Seth also graduated from Azusa Pacific University as a DPT on December 18, 2020.

### Gianna D'Amato, Class of 2020



Playing soccer at Grove has been such an awesome experience! As a freshman entering college, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I quickly realized I had nothing to worry about, and I fell in love with the life of a student-athlete. On and off the field, my teammates encouraged me to give 100%. Due to Covid, our

soccer season was postponed to the spring. I went 8 months without playing an official game, but those 8 months allowed me to invest into the soccer program and my teammates. That time also benefited our team chemistry when we officially hit the turf in March. We went undefeated (9-0) in conference play, solidifying the #1 seed for our conference tournament.

We had a successful season overall, and I was named the PAC Conference Newcomer of the Year. My favorite part? Getting to be a part of a team whose vision is "To [play] in such a way that the love of Jesus is immediately evident and ultimately appealing."





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