

# THE CHIMES

HCA NEWSLETTER • FALL SEMESTER 2022-2023



## Home Sweet Homecoming

Welcome home! HCA celebrated its annual Homecoming event on Saturday, September 17, 2022. It was a special day of fun and fellowship.

Read more about HCA's 2022 Homecoming event on page 6.



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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David Chen Photography

Cover photo by Christine Pelliccio

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## HCA Leadership Team



KEN BURES  
**Director of Technology**



JENNIFER EELMAN  
**Upper School Principal**



TODD R. MITCHELL  
**Head of School**



TINA TATUM  
**Director of Admissions & Marketing** (Chimes Editor)



DEBORAH FUCCI  
**Director of Guidance**



MARCIA RAINEY  
**Lower School Principal**



TYLER VAN DYK  
**Director of Athletics**

# A Word In Season

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

## KNOW JESUS KNOW TRUTH



TODD MITCHELL  
Head of School

### Impact the World for Christ!

Know Jesus, Know Truth! This theme has been our focus throughout the 2022-2023 school year as we strive to lead students to Christ and to guide them to know that truth is found in the Word of God and in the person of Jesus Christ. We also recognize that this is not a theme reserved for those within our school, church, or community. Rather, as believers Jesus tells us, “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).

At HCA, we recognize this great calling in our Mission Statement. Hawthorne Christian Academy is committed to inspire and equip our students to grow in spiritual maturity, to achieve academic excellence, and to **impact the world for Christ**. Further, HCA’s Portrait of a Graduate sets the following desired outcomes for HCA alumni related to World Impact:

- Be servant leaders who love and serve others in the church and community
- Identify, develop, and use their God-given gifts to serve others and to honor and glorify God
- Share the Gospel and defend their faith
- Love, value, and pursue people of every race, culture, and ethnicity, recognizing them as image bearers of God

In pursuit of our mission and in recognition of God’s imperative, HCA is planning a new and exciting Senior Class Trip beginning for the Class of 2024! This November, our seniors will have the opportunity to join their classmates on a short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic. We have partnered with Handfuls of Hope (HoH), a ministry that brings the gospel and shows Christ’s

love through their work in and around Santo Domingo. HoH serves this area through operating a Christian school, running outreach programs for children, partnering with groups like Outreach Aid to the Americas and One More Child, and distributing Bibles and food (partnering with Feed My Starving Children) through village ministry.

As HoH president Don Coords says, “HoH is a here (pointing to his heart) and there (referring to the DR) ministry.” The goal is not only to impact those in the DR, but also to impact the hearts and communities of those who are changed by serving Jesus through these trips. Our prayer is that our students will grow in the following ways:

- Understand God’s global work through the people, cultures, and stories they encounter
- Develop their trust in God’s sovereignty through a novel and potentially uncomfortable experience
- Be unified with their classmates through their outward focus and common purpose of sharing the light of Christ to the world
- Allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through them, resulting in a new or deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ
- Develop a burden to serve Christ through their influence in their school and community

Don will be joining us as the Keynote Speaker at the 2023 Annual HCA Banquet. We hope you will join us to learn more about this terrific partnership, and we ask for your prayers as we embark on this new endeavor, striving to lead our students and those they serve to “Know Jesus, Know Truth!”

# Building a Legacy

## HCA LEGACY STUDENTS 2022-2023



Michael ('91) & Kathryn (Klock) Andersen ('91)  
with Keri Andersen (11)



Matthew ('99) & Nicole (Senak) Bader ('03) with  
Mackenzie Bader (4)



Christopher Cilderman ('95) with  
Sara Cilderman (2)



Kirk De Boer ('01) with Connor (4), Morgan (2)  
& Sadie De Boer (K)



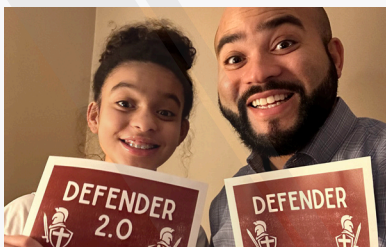
Kyle De Boer ('94) with Lillian (10), Landon (8),  
Wade (5) & Everett De Boer (3)



Rachel (Livingston) DeBlock ('96) with  
Nicholas DeBlock (12)



Leigh-Ann (Eelman) Gordon ('96) with  
Levi Gordon (5)



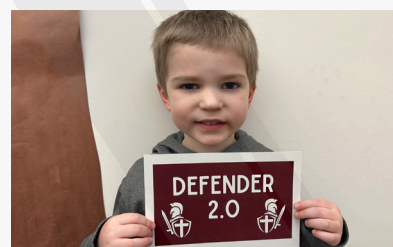
Angel Grant ('03) with Mia Grant (8)



Stephen Halliwell ('04) with Grace (5)  
& Elijah Halliwell (2)



Shane Higby ('90) with Ava (10), Cole (10)  
& Eli Higby (10)



Benjamin Jensen (PS4)  
**Camera Shy:** William Jensen ('07)

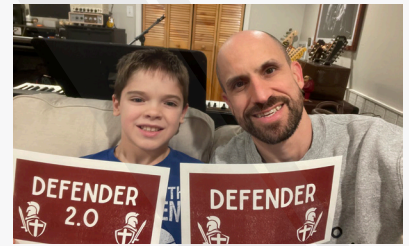
**Twenty-five HCA alumni have thirty-eight children enrolled in their alma mater this school year. These mini-me Legacy Students range from preschool to grade 12. Do you see the resemblance?**



Julie (Thoman) LaGrotteria ('03) with Emma LaGrotteria (4)



Madeleine (3) & Landon LaGrotteria (K)  
**Camera Shy:** Nicole (Crittelli) LaGrotteria ('03)



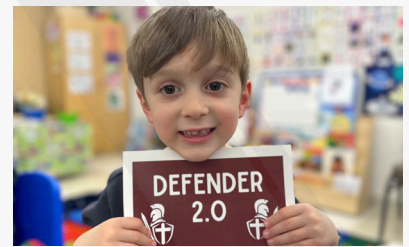
Russel Mack ('00) with Jacob Mack (5)



Jacob Minnema ('04) with Caleb (1) & Ellie Minnema (1)



Jaylene (Jardinico) Monteiro ('94) with Mia Monteiro (4)



John Quinn (PS4)  
**Camera Shy:** Rebecca (Sirinides) Quinn ('07)



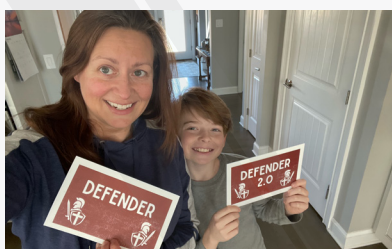
Kevin ('95) & Jennifer (McCausland) Stanford ('95) with Olivia (6) & Sienna Stanford (4)



Emily (Ciotti) Stanley ('06) with Ryan (12), Gideon (1), Lydia (K), Hannah (PS4) & Titus Stanley (PS3)



Drew Van Duren ('93) with Jordan Van Duren (12)



Jennifer (Parzek) Volz ('92) with Noah Volz (5)  
**Camera Shy:** Emily Volz (8)



Anna (Mingos) Zayac ('05) with Bria Zayac (2)

# Homecoming 2022

WELCOME HOME!



## Home Sweet Homecoming

We were blessed and excited to host another successful homecoming event this year! It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces from throughout HCA history, as well as the many new faces who have joined us as the HCA community has grown. It was a picture-perfect day, filled with sunny skies, a cool gentle breeze, and fun-filled smiles and laughter. Our fantastic PTF and parent volunteers organized the day's fun and games, and prepared a delicious BBQ lunch, which was greatly enjoyed by all who were present. Not only was this year's Homecoming a fun day for our families, but it was also an exceptionally

successful day for HCA Athletics. All Defender teams played their best and all secured victories! Our day of fun and fellowship culminated with our annual Alumni Soccer Game. Many thanks to our awesome alumni who returned to their alma mater to share this special day with us. As the day came to a close, all in attendance were filled with gratitude. Enjoying a day of fun and fellowship was the best way to ring in our school year as an HCA Family!



BECKY VANDERBECK  
Advancement Events Coordinator

# Annual Golf Classic

## 24TH FALL FUNDRAISER

### Thanks, Sponsors!

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George Kuryllo

#### SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Ramsey Auto & The Van Duren Family  
"Hole-In-One" \$1,000 Prize

**HCA celebrated its 24th annual Golf Classic on a beautiful October day at Mansion Ridge Golf Club.**



### 2023 NHS Inductees

On October 6, 2022, eighteen new members were inducted into HCA's chapter of the National Honor Society.

NHS is founded on four principles which are highlighted in 2 Peter 1: scholarship, service, leadership and character.

**New Members:** Keri Andersen (11), Zara Atekpe (11), Julie Awad (11), Sophia DiGregorio (11), Jessica Gessner (11), Chelsea Hall (12), Natalie Hanna (11), Sabrina Kioumji (11), Ava Lamitola (11), Denisha Liddell (11), Grace Mark (11), Caleb Matthew (11), Amanda Meshraky (11), Christina Orr (11), Cecilia Soheily (11), Joel Walker (11), Christine Williams (11), and Jonathan Yoo (11). Congratulations!



**KIM BURES**  
**LS STEM & GATES Teacher • NHS Advisor**



saving faith. In Matthew 7:21-24, Jesus speaks of those who call Him Lord, but do not give evidence of genuine faith by obeying His Word - those who give Him lip service but have not truly bowed the knee to Him. They know a lot about Jesus, but do not "know" Jesus. Jesus says in John 10:27: "My sheep hear My voice, I know them and they follow Me." Have you heard the voice of the Good Shepherd? Are you following Him? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says (John 8:47). May the Lord be pleased to accomplish His good purpose in the lives of our students.



**MICHAEL LAMITOLA**  
**HCA Chaplain • MS/HS Bible & History Teacher**



### Awesome Art Activities

This year, we have introduced a number of exciting art activities beyond the classroom. High School Art Club meets during lunch once a week for a variety of creative sketchbook challenges, fundraisers, and art projects. This club is also helping paint the Dessert Theater background set. Middle schoolers have been meeting to create beautiful floor-to-ceiling paintings with scripture. 4th and 5th grade students have also participated in after-school art clubs this winter, working on their own nativity scenes that proclaimed the reason for the season!



**ELIZABETH WESTERMAN**  
**4th-12th Grade Art Teacher**

### Spiritual Emphasis 2022

Each year, HCA is committed to building community and helping our students grow spiritually through our Spiritual Emphasis program. This September, we had the privilege of hearing from Reverend Richard Jones, Pastor of Bridgeway Community Church in Haledon, NJ. Reverend Jones spoke to our students on "knowing Jesus", which is based off of our school theme verse (John 8:32). He challenged students to examine themselves by asking the probing question, "Do you simply know a lot about Jesus, or do you actually know Him?" This is a crucially important distinction and most certainly the greatest challenge for students who are raised in Christian homes, attend Church and youth group, and go to Christian School. Often there is a complacency which sets in because we can easily recite what we call the "Sunday School answer" without necessarily giving it much thought. Jesus Himself warns against the danger of knowing a lot about Him without actually possessing



# Highlights

## & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Lower School Highlights

#### Hearers and Doers of the Word

"Kids of Integrity," our fall chapel series, explored topics of honesty, kindness, generosity, and compassion. Students were encouraged to put these virtues into practice through projects that impacted our community. Families donated 290 OCC shoeboxes for children around the world, and packed a van of food and paper products for the Hawthorne Food Pantry. It is truly our desire to be hearers and doers of the Word, on campus and around the world!

#### Harvest Day

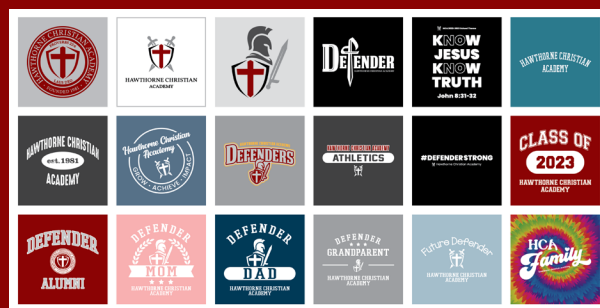
This fall, our lower schoolers celebrated God's creation with a Harvest Day. The softball field was turned into a pumpkin patch, the HGC tractor and wagon became a hayride, and our picnic area overflowed with apple cider and donuts!



MARCIA RAINEY  
Lower School Principal

### HCA SPIRIT SHOP

After many inquiries and requests, HCA was thrilled to announce a year-round, 24/7 online Spirit Shop for our families this fall! On the HCA Spirit Shop, you will find spirit wear and accessories branded with our official Defender Designs on hundreds of items. Click the Shopping Bag on HCA's website to start browsing our first 18 designs, including items for students, parents, family members, and HCA alumni. Happy shopping, Defenders!



TINA TATUM  
Director of Admissions & Marketing

## New and Exciting Campus News...

#### New Bible Elective Classes Available!

Praise the Lord that HCA Upper School has been able to incorporate Bible electives into the academic schedule! This fall, we offered "Now That I Believe," which considered such subjects that face the young believer in Christ as temptation, joy, Christian character, prayer, Bible study, and more. While we are born again solely through faith, we need to continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ "now that we believe." This spring, we are studying, "Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures," that is, the Old Testament. Through this study, we expect to become more effective "Defenders" of the Christian faith to both Jew and Gentile. To God be glory both now and forever! Amen.



SALVATORE CUSMANO  
HS Bible Teacher

#### Inaugural Annual Career Day Event

HCA recently hosted a Career Day for students in grades 9-12. Our goal was to provide students with an opportunity to gather information about various occupations and, more importantly, how we can use our work, regardless of the field or role, to glorify God. Community members from a variety of professions took part in this Q&A-style event to provide students with a deeper understanding of their respective fields. Nineteen participants sat on eight different panels separated into the areas of Architecture and Engineering, Finance, Healthcare, Law/Law Enforcement, Mental Health, Ministry, Physical Therapy, and Trades. Students had the opportunity to attend three sessions of their choice.



DEBORAH FUCCI  
Director of Guidance

# Faculty Features

WELCOME ABOARD!



## Mrs. Jennifer Eelman

UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

**Article Written By:** Todd Mitchell,  
HCA Head of School



## Miss Deborah Fucci

DIRECTOR OF GUIDANCE

**Article Written By:** Jennifer Eelman,  
HCA Upper School Principal

HCA is blessed to have Mrs. Jennifer Eelman serving in her new role as Upper School Principal. Mrs. Eelman has a long history at HCA and has been impacting students at the Academy since 2008. After teaching Middle School English from 2008-2016, Mrs. Eelman served as Director of Guidance for six years. Along with her extensive service at HCA, Mrs. Eelman and her husband, Mike ('96), are also alumni parents. They have two children, Rachel ('19) and Christopher ('21), who followed in their dad's footsteps as HCA alumni and Faithful Scholars (having attended HCA K-12). They are both enrolled at Cairn University, where they are involved in collegiate music and athletics. In July 2022, Mrs. Eelman accepted her new role of Upper School Principal. Calling on her curricular expertise, commitment to Christian Education, love for the Lord, and 18 years as a part of the HCA Family, Mrs. Eelman transitioned seamlessly into this new position. She has a passion for discipling students and supporting teachers as they instruct and mentor God's children. The HCA community praises God for His provision and pray that He will guide Mrs. Eelman and be glorified through her work as she serves!

Miss Deborah Fucci joined the HCA Family in July 2022. Miss Fucci comes to us with a BA in Psychology and Christian Counseling, a Master of Education in School Counseling, and New Jersey and ACSI certifications in School Counseling and Administration. She has over 15 years experience in education, and has served in the role of school counselor for the past nine years. Miss Fucci has worked with students from Preschool through grade 12, providing counseling and support in the areas of social/emotional, academic, and career development. Her experience in both Christian and public education, as well as her continued desire to invest in her growth, has given her the professional foundation to support and further grow Hawthorne Christian Academy's school counseling program. With all of these strengths, most notable is her love for Jesus and desire to disciple students to love and serve Him now and in the future. Her office is a place of prayer, counsel, and rest for those who are in need of support. We are grateful that she has become part of our family, and we look forward to seeing what the Lord will do through Miss Fucci as she continues to serve at Hawthorne Christian Academy.



## Miss Stephanie Chiommino

MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

Miss Chiommino graduated from HCA before attending Seton Hall University. She understands the importance of Christian education in a personal way. Miss Chiommino has been actively involved in children's ministries at her church for ten years. Her passion is working with children and guiding them in their walk with the Lord. She is also enthusiastic about Mathematics. When you put these two factors together, the solution is a middle school math teacher for HCA! Miss Chiommino is excited to see what God has in store for her and her students at HCA.



## Mrs. Lucy Fan

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER

Mrs. Fan is a wife, mother, and passionate science teacher. She has been a follower of Jesus Christ for 21 years. Prior to HCA, Mrs. Fan taught Chemistry and Engineering in public schools. Mrs. Fan grew up in atheist China, never hearing the message of Jesus. But from a young age, she was fascinated by nature's orderly patterns, and wondered who created the Universe with such elegant natural laws. Knowing now of her Creator and His creation, Mrs. Fan hopes to build intelligence and character in her students, that they will know Jesus, know truth, and be set free.

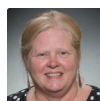
## **HCA welcomed eight new faculty members and two new administrators this year! We are blessed to partner with these godly men and women to serve HCA for the Lord's glory.**



**Mrs. Do Yon Hwang**

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Mrs. Hwang has served at HCA as a 4th-grade teacher for several years. In 2022, Mrs. Hwang became the first Curriculum Coordinator in HCA history. Undergirded by her comprehensive teaching experiences and her passion for lifelong learning, Mrs. Hwang is thrilled to support both the curricular needs of the students and to assist the needs of the teachers who walk alongside the students at HCA. The HCA community is very blessed and thankful to welcome Mrs. Hwang into this new and impactful role on our campus, as she helps us continue to grow for the Lord's glory.



**Mrs. Elaine Novak**

3RD GRADE TEACHER

Mrs. Novak has served the Lord in Christian education since 1986. She has ministered in three different Christian schools over the last few decades. She joined the HCA Family as a parent in 2018 when she enrolled her son, Mike, at the Academy. Mike graduated from HCA in 2021. Mrs. Novak is very thankful and excited to re-join the HCA community now in her new role as a 3rd-grade teacher. Mrs. Novak currently lives in Parsippany, NJ with her family and their dog, Snickers. She enjoys spending time at the shore and visiting our National Parks in her spare time.



**Mrs. Gina Occhiogrosso**

1ST GRADE TEACHER

Mrs. Occhiogrosso has served the Lord as a Christian educator for nine years. She previously taught 2nd-grade and 3rd-grade at Bergen County Christian Academy in Hackensack. Blessed with three children, Gina had the privilege of being a stay-at-home mom for a time. She then returned to teaching until God opened a door for her to minister at HCA in 2022, just in time for her two daughters to become students in HCA's 8th and 12th-grade classes. Gina loves spending time with her family, cooking, baking, and teaching her students about the love of Jesus.



**Mr. Daniel Pollard**

5TH GRADE TEACHER

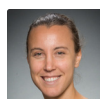
Mr. Pollard accepted Christ as his Savior at the age of ten. Since then, he has made it his life's goal to live for Jesus and to be like Him. In 2007, he moved from his home in New Jersey to sunny Florida, where he attended Bible school and taught in two Christian schools. In 2016, God directed Mr. Pollard to return to New Jersey to earn his graduate degree in education. After a few years teaching in public school, the Lord led Mr. Pollard to join the HCA Family in 2022. He is excited to see how God will use him to encourage and uplift his students to desire God's best for them.



**Mrs. Jodi Ramasamy**

4TH GRADE TEACHER

Mrs. Ramasamy, a graduate of the University of Delaware, started teaching 4th-grade full time at HCA in 2022, though she has served as a substitute at HCA previously. Mrs. Ramasamy now joins the HCA community with her two children (grades 10 and 11). She has enjoyed coming back to the classroom after taking a break to raise her children and managing a busy household. She regularly volunteers with non-profits and has coached several youth and high school sports teams. She enjoys traveling, rooting for the Boston Red Sox, and playing with her two doodles.



**Mrs. Stephanie Tierney**

5TH GRADE TEACHER

Mrs. Tierney has been teaching in Christian Education since 2013, with a focus on math and science in middle school grades. She now joins the HCA community as a 5th-grade teacher, focusing on the math and science subjects. Mrs. Tierney loves to encourage her students to discover new things and to grow in their relationship with the Lord. When she is not teaching, Mrs. Tierney enjoys outdoor activities and traveling with her husband and two dogs, and serving in her church and town community. She also works as the supervisor of her local town pool in the summer.

# Academy Athletics

GO DEFENDERS!

## Fall 2022 Defender Athletics



TYLER VAN DYK  
Director of Athletics

This past fall season for HCA Athletics was another successful one! We had 15 Defenders receive NJIC All League recognition; 12 received PCCA All County awards and 2 Defenders earned SCANJ All State honors. The Varsity Boys Soccer team, the Varsity Girls Soccer team, and the Varsity Girls Volleyball team all earned 1st round home games in their respective PCCA County Tournaments, and all three teams won in front of the home crowds! All of those three Varsity teams also won in front of the Defender faithful during HCA's Annual Homecoming.

The Varsity Boys Soccer team had a very thrilling golden goal overtime win in the State Tournament. As the High School Cross Country program continues to grow, we were very excited that two newcomers, sophomores Cole Higby and Isaac Lee, were both All League and All County and

earned qualification in the NJSIAA State Championship Meet. The Varsity Girls Volleyball team finished the season with 14 wins, which is one of the highest win totals in program history for a single season.

Both the Middle School Boys and the Middle School Girls Soccer teams advanced to the Finals of the Annual Coppa Italia Soccer Tournament. Our Middle School Lady Defenders won the entire tournament! And after two scoreless overtime periods, the Middle School Boys suffered a heartbreaking loss in a penalty kick shootout. The participation numbers across the board for both our High School and Middle School athletic teams are up and that is very promising for the future. Our fan support for not only home games but also away games continues to be strong, for which we are extremely grateful.



HCA 2022 Defender Varsity Boys Soccer



HCA 2022 Defender Varsity Girls Soccer



HCA 2022 Defender Cross Country



HCA 2022 Defender Girls Volleyball

**Defenders... Fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.  
(2 Timothy 4:7)**



**HCA 2022 Defender Middle School Boys Soccer**



**HCA 2022 Defender Middle School Girls Soccer**

**Thank You, Triple Play Sponsors!**



**Fall Sports Awards**

⊗ HS CROSS COUNTRY

- Kara Bysterbusch (9)**  
Honorable Mention All League
- Abigail Camacho (12)**  
Honorable Mention All County
- Victor Henriquez-Baez (10)**  
Honorable Mention All League
- Cole Higby (10)**  
1st Team All League,  
Honorable Mention All County
- Isaac Lee (10)**  
2nd Team All League,  
Honorable Mention All County
- Colby Oostdyk (9)**  
Honorable Mention All League
- Anna Rypkema (11)**  
1st Team All League,  
Honorable Mention All County

⊕ VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

- Brock Burres (12)**  
1st Team All League, 2nd Team  
All County, 3rd Team All State
- Andrew Hart (11)**  
Honorable Mention All League
- AJ Mark (12)**  
Honorable Mention All County
- Matthew Mitchell (10)**  
Honorable Mention All County
- Joel Walker (11)**  
1st Team All League, 2nd Team  
All County, 2nd Team All State

⊕ VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

- Ava Hartung (10)**  
2nd Team All League,  
Honorable Mention All County
- Joanna Meharg (12)**  
2nd Team All League
- Kate Murtagh (12)**  
Honorable Mention All League
- Anna Ramasamy (11)**  
Honorable Mention All County

⊕ GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- Sophia DiGregorio (11)**  
1st Team All League
- Rachael Feola (12)**  
Honorable Mention All League
- Maia Kriesel (12)**  
Honorable Mention All League,  
Honorable Mention All County

# Music Notes

## AND ALL THAT JAZZ

### A Wonderful "Opera-tunity!"

The annual New Jersey All State Opera Festival provides the opportunity for students across New Jersey to experience the world of opera through excellence in performance, creativity, and education, stimulating them to develop an appreciation for opera and to achieve their highest potential in vocal performance. The festival returned in virtual form this year after a hiatus due to Covid. Students from across the state submitted videos of operatic arias and ensemble performances for adjudication by former operatic stars, Ronald Naldi and Louis Otey. These students received scores, feedback, and some wonderful swag from The Metropolitan Opera. Participating HCA students received high accolades for their submissions. HCA sophomore Cecilia Soheily received 1st runner up in the solo category for her aria from Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and seniors Tyler Kriney and Luke Mitchell received the Madame Paunova Small Ensemble Award for their highest scoring duet from the Gilbert and Sullivan *The Gondoliers*.

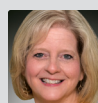


### NJ All State Chorus

After rigorous auditions involving thousands of students across the state, seven Hawthorne Christian Academy students were chosen to participate in the 2022-2023 New Jersey All State Chorus. Six were selected for the Mixed Chorus in Atlantic City on November 9-11. Rachel Bustamante (sophomore, ranked 4th in the state), Abigail Camacho (senior), Luke Mitchell (senior, ranked 2nd in the state), Soleille Manasse (junior), Gamaliel Perde (sophomore), and Cecilia Soheily (junior, ranked 3rd in the state) spent three days rehearsing with the top 225 singers in New Jersey, and presented a concert at Boardwalk Hall under the direction of Dr. Amanda Quist from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. They then repeated that performance at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark. One HCA student, Charmaine



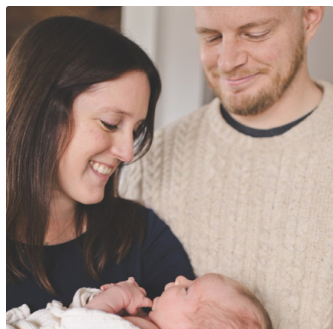
Manipon (sophomore), was selected for the All State Treble Chorus, which also rehearsed and performed at Boardwalk Hall and NJPAC this winter. In addition, due to their rankings as top scorers in their sections, Luke Mitchell and Cecilia Soheily have been selected as finalists in the competition for the Governor's Award for Vocal Music 2023. Congratulations to these talented and hard-working students! Continue to use your gifts for His glory!



ANNE PAYNTER  
Middle & High School Music Teacher

# Alumni News

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



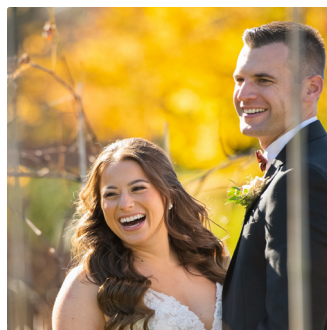
**Sara (Van Lenten) Ridgwell ('09)** and her husband, Laurence Ridgwell, happily announced the birth of their first baby boy, Jack William Ridgwell, on December 15, 2021. The Ridgwells are very thankful and excited about their new family addition.



**Edwin Lee ('10)** and his wife, Subbha Lee, welcomed their first child, Andrew James Lee, this winter! Andrew James is a sweet baby boy, born on November 15, 2022.



**Anna (Srigiri) Pennock ('10)** and her husband, William, welcomed their third child, Josephine Priya Pennock, on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at 8:38 in the evening.



**Christina Pascarelli ('12)** married Mr. Jeremy Nast on October 29, 2022, at Bear Brook Valley in Fredon, New Jersey. Christina and Jeremy, who is from Westwood, New Jersey, met online in 2016. The newlyweds now reside in Clifton, New Jersey.

# Advancement Update

GROW • ACHIEVE • IMPACT

## A Legacy of Gratitude and Giving



ELLEN PELLICCIO  
Development Coordinator

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). This verse (command) may hit us with a roller coaster of emotions: being anxious about our current world situation, needing God's help and yet thanking Him, and then being specific about our needs. This tells me one thing: all areas of our life matter to God, and everything is appropriate for prayer (and thanksgiving).

We are seeing God work at HCA in response to this verse. Enrollment continues to grow in a time when the world is trying to remove Biblical worldviews. Building a community of diverse students who love Jesus together continues to be the focus of HCA in the midst of a divided nation. Financial

needs continue to be met to refurbish facilities, pay faculty, and provide financial aid to those in need. God is doing all of this through His people - you. Thank you.

One such man who God used mightily in building the Kingdom was Kenneth Koeller. Ken was a member of HGC, and he and his wife, Nancy, were passionate supporters of HGC's largest ministry: HCA. Ken was committed to Christian Education and to HCA's mission. In 2022, Ken went home to heaven, but he and Nancy secured a legacy of gratitude and giving. The Koeller Family Tuition Aid Fund will be a blessing for many families. We will continue to depend on the Father to meet our needs, and He will use you to do it. Thank you again for being a part of His work at HCA.



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to **achieve** academic  
excellence



and to **impact** the  
world for Christ

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