

# THE CHIMES

HCA NEWSLETTER • SPRING SEMESTER 2022-2023



## HCA Hosts Danny Gokey Concert

HCA partnered with Handfuls of Hope to present "Danny Gokey Live in Concert," an event to raise proceeds for HCA's Senior Missions Trip to the Dominican Republic.

Read more HCA Highlights and campus happenings on page 4.



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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Photos by: Ellen Pelliccio  
David Chen Photography

Cover photo by David Tierney

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## HCA Leadership Team



KEN BURES  
**Director of Technology**



JENNIFER EELMAN  
**Upper School Principal**



TODD MITCHELL  
**Head of School**



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



DEBORAH FUCCI  
**Director of Guidance**



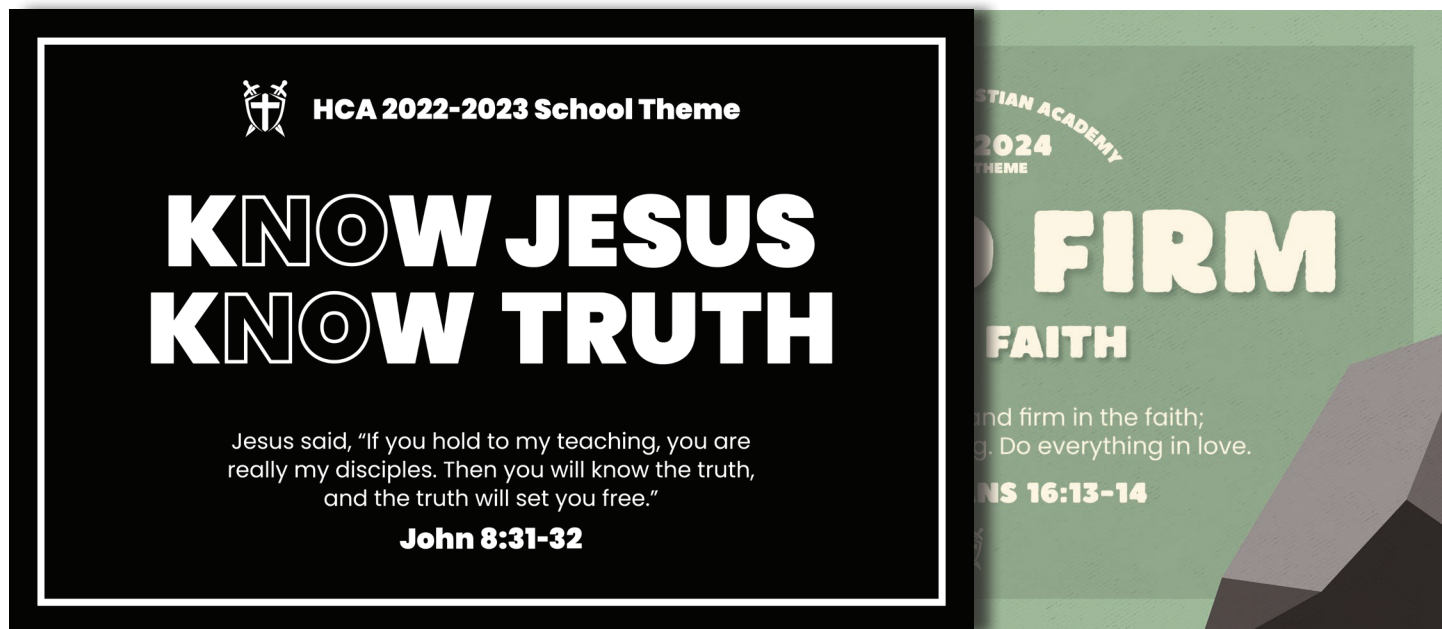
MARCIA RAINEY  
**Lower School Principal**



TYLER VAN DYK  
**Director of Athletics**

# A Word In Season

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



TODD MITCHELL  
Head of School

## Know Jesus, Know Truth, and Stand Firm

As I reflect back on the 2022-2023 school year, I praise God for His faithfulness and grace to HCA! The Lord's blessings on our school could fill this entire volume as we consider great times of fellowship, new programs, facility upgrades, and, most importantly, changed lives! Among all of these blessings, I am regularly struck with humility and gratitude for God's work in maintaining the Word as the cornerstone of all we do at HCA. By the "Word," I am referring, of course, to the Word Incarnate, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and also to His written Word, the Holy Bible.

The HCA theme for the 2022-2023 school year was **KNOW JESUS, KNOW TRUTH**. And, while evangelism and discipleship are always at the core of our mission, this past year we focused on Jesus and the Bible as our sources of truth. What a blessing it was to hear our teachers and students discuss apologetic support for the inspired Word and share impassioned evidence of the life-changing impact that knowing Jesus has had on their lives. Implied by this is our calling to impact the world for Christ so that others will come to

Know Jesus and to look to Him as their source of truth! To that end, God's Word encourages and exhorts us to build our lives upon Truth and to live upright lives that set us apart as His people and that bring glory to His name.

With this in mind, the Leadership Team prayed, pondered, and discerned over a theme that would guide us for the 2023-2024 school year. This coming year, our theme and focus will be **STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH**, taken from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. In these verses, as Paul draws his letter to a close, he encourages and exhorts believers saying, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." For we know that if we live for Jesus, we will face trials, temptation, and persecution. And with the Corinthian Church we are called to be steadfast, immovable, and loving, so that through us, as through the early church, the world will see our lives and glorify the Father in Heaven. Please pray for our students and faculty as we grow in Him and through the Holy Spirit are inspired and equipped to Stand Firm in the Faith!

# HCA Highlights

## ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, & CAMPUS FEATURES

### Lower School Happenings



MARCIA RAINEY  
Lower School Principal

#### Dig Day! Lower School's Spring Service Day

Service Day meets active outdoor learning on our Dig Day. Ryan Lewis, HGC Director of Maintenance, taught students the basics of botany and guided them as they planted flowers around HCA, often in areas near their classrooms!

Stop by our campus and enjoy the beauty of the flowers our students spent the day planting... and may your heart overflow with praise to the Creator of heaven and earth!

#### Bring your Loved One to School Day

Each Lower Schooler invited a special family member or friend to come to school with them for Loved Ones' Day. Over 200 guests attended chapel, where they were inspired by student worship, engaged in a special activity with their student in the classroom, and enjoyed brunch together. Truly, HCA is a wonderful place to spend your days!

### Danny Gokey Live in Concert

Tour buses, bright lights, huge speakers, big sound, and over 1,000 people packed into the HGC sanctuary as HCA welcomed Danny Gokey to the stage! It was a great night of fellowship, the pews were packed, and people sang along with one of America's most popular Christian artists.

It was an evening of entertainment, but more than that, this concert marked the beginning of a new partnership for HCA and a new step in the fulfillment of our mission to impact the world for Christ! Danny Gokey brought people together to enjoy a great time, to pray, and to raise financial support for the HCA Missions Fund and Handfuls of Hope! Handfuls of Hope (HoH) is a ministry that runs several programs in the DR, including a Christian school, Christian sports camps, and the Isaiah 58 ministry, which brings the gospel (along with food and supplies) to the villages

### STEM Villages

5th-grade's culminating STEM project integrated architecture, engineering, and construction. Mrs. Burres required each village to include two houses connected by a road, a working water tower, open green space, a river, and a bridge connecting it to other villages. After weeks of designing and testing, students visited Servant's Heart Operations Site, where they built their houses using carpenter tools under the supervision of experienced tradesmen. Back at HCA, students affixed their house to a table and installed a circuit to provide electrical, heating, and water. This engaging project required weeks of critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving, creativity, perseverance, and achievement!



of the DR. Additionally, HoH runs short-term missions trips designed to impact both those who are served and those who are serving with the gospel, as they show Christ's love and live out the Great Commission.

This November, HCA's senior class, plus members of the HCA faculty, staff, and administration, along with HGC pastoral staff, will head to the DR to serve with HoH. We pray that this is the beginning of a lasting relationship that will impact our students and the world for Christ!



TODD MITCHELL  
Head of School

# Annual Banquet & Auction

**KNOW JESUS, KNOW TRUTH!**

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet

"Know Jesus, Know Truth", has been proclaimed, penned, and studied this year at HCA. The 2023 Banquet further emphasized this theme. Faculty and students defined truth and challenged guests to know Jesus. What a special night!

It was a joy to honor Mrs. Lynn Baggini with the "Building Foundations for Life Award." She served at HCA for 31 years before retiring. In that time, hundreds of students were taught, loved, witnessed to, and prayed for by Lynn. She continues to be one of HCA's greatest soccer fans. Whether she is present at games or not, her chant of "possession" still seems to ring in the air. Lynn's foundation in life is built on knowing Jesus and sharing that truth. Congratulations, Lynn, on this well-deserved honor. Thank you!

The 2023 "Distinguished Alumni Award" was presented to Stephen Cobucci, class of '04. Steve is a founding member of Wolves at the Gate, a Christian metal band. Founded in



ELLEN PELLICCIO  
Advancement Development Coordinator

2008, the band has released four EPs, five albums, and three Christmas singles over the years. They share the gospel in an unconventional format as they tour around the world. Listening to Steve humbly recall how HCA challenged him to know Jesus and seek the truth was beautifully inspiring. Congratulations, Steve. God bless you as you continue to push back the darkness and share the light of Jesus.

HCA welcomed Mr. Don Coords to share his heart for missions, specifically to the DR. HCA's senior class will be partnering with his organization, Handfuls of Hope, for a missions trip next school year. Don challenged guests to do what they can do to support God's work and let the Lord use it for His glory, whether it's giving, serving, or praying.

We are so grateful for our HCA community who generously gives of their time and finances, serves where there are needs, and covers our campus in prayer. Thank you!



## Thank You, 2023 Banquet Sponsors!

### HOST SPONSORS

Columbia Bank Foundation  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kayal & Kayal Orthopaedic Center

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Mr. & Mrs. Todd Mitchell

# Jog-A-Thon 2023

## HCA ON THE RUN



### Jog, Defenders, Jog!

Blue skies, a cool breeze, blasting music, and fun fellowship among Defenders and their families laid the foundation for an unforgettable, top-notch Jog-a-Thon! HCA's annual Jog-a-Thon is a long running and cherished event, hosted by HCA's Parent-Teacher Fellowship each year on campus.

Each spring, the HCA Jog-a-thon provides students and families with a day of fun, food, fellowship, and fundraising. All of our students, from our preschoolers all the way up to our graduating seniors, gather together on Defender Field to run laps to support their school, and to build comradery and strengthen relationships with their peers.

After the students gave it their all on the jogging field, they cooled off with ice pops on the bleachers and enjoyed a

delicious BBQ lunch in the Pavilion, cooked and assembled with love by our beloved parent volunteers. The support and participation from HCA parents and families at this year's Jog-a-Thon was huge! Our campus buzzed with excitement and school spirit as the HCA community came together to support our mission. We are so thankful to our many generous donors who sponsored students and helped us raise a record-high of over \$40,000!

HCA is truly blessed and grateful. Praise God for all who partner with HCA to support God's work on our campus!



**BECKY VANDERBECK**  
**Advancement Events Coordinator**

# HCA Showcase

## ANNUAL ART EXHIBITS & INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL



### 2023 Art Exhibits



MARCIA RAINEY  
Lower School Principal

#### A Night to Showcase God-Given Gifts

The annual "HCA Showcase" was a special evening as Lower School families visited classrooms filled with student work and projects completed throughout the year, and walked hallways displaying wonderful student artwork. Many shopped at the 5th-grade STEM Market, featuring handmade items the 5th-graders made as part of their STEM and economics interdisciplinary unit created by Mrs. Kim Burres. The 4th and 5th-grade students enrolled in the Music Conservatory instrumental program, led by Mr. John Peterson, performed in the Sanctuary followed by Middle and High School instrumental performances, including HCA's 6th-12th Concert Band. The High School Gallery Walk was a pop-up art studio in the Fireside Room, with special exhibits by seniors in the AP Studio Art class. Middle and High School Student Ambassadors served butler-passed hors d'oeuvres to those visiting the art gallery. The evening truly represented HCA's desire to nurture students' God-given giftings, talents, and interests – academic, musical, and artistic.



#### Honoring our AP Art Seniors (A Note from Miss Westerman)

This year, the AP senior Capstone students were Kate Murtagh and Chelsea Hall. Leading up to the HCA Showcase, these students worked tirelessly to create a series of art pieces each month under a singular theme of their choosing – a process that takes creativity, skill development, perseverance, self-reflection, revision, and bravery to put themselves out there. Well done, seniors!

### 🎵 Conservatory Recital

On Tuesday evening, May 23, 2023, the HCA Instrumental Program students filled the Hawthorne Gospel Church Sanctuary with the most wonderful sounds of music in the year-end Instrumental Conservatory. The program consisted of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade ensemble performances, entertaining and beautifully accomplished solos, duets, and trios, and super exciting performances by the HCA Advanced Band and the MS/HS Concert Band.

The Conservatory provides the opportunity for parents to hear the labors of their children's hard work, but it goes much deeper than that. Our audience is able to recognize the skill development and great maturity in sound from our more experienced students as the night progresses. This "showcase" of skill gives our young students a glimpse of their bright futures in HCA's Instrumental Program. Most importantly, the Conservatory highlights the gifts given by our Awesome God and we give Him the glory for it all!



JOHN PETERSON  
4th-12th Grade Instrumental Teacher



# The HCA Graduate

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Row 1:** \*Honors, \*\*High Honors, +NHS

**Joseph Yuen** ..... Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Joanna Meharg \*\*+** ..... Wheaton College

**Elizabeth Grace Jones** ..... Temple University

**Gianna Occhiogrosso \*\*** ..... Bridal Fashion App. NYC

**Jordan Van Duren** ..... Palm Beach Atlantic University

**Maia Kriesel** ..... Messiah College

**Chelsea Hall \*\*+** ..... New Jersey Institute of Tech.

**Tyler Kriney** ..... Montclair State University

**Row 2:**

**Jesreal Agapito** ..... Undecided

**Daniella Palacios \*\*+** ..... University of Tampa

**Celeste Reyes** ..... William Paterson University

**Faith Guan \*\*+** ..... Cornell University

**Tatiana Schmidt \*\*** ..... Liberty University

**Kyla Amaro** ..... Montclair State University

**Luke Mitchell \*\*+** ..... College of William and Mary

**Row 3:** (continued...)



## Graduation Speech Highlights



DEBORAH FUCCI  
Director of Guidance

### Valedictorian: Faith Guan

In her valedictorian address, Faith expressed her gratitude to her peers and teachers for making her high school experience unforgettable. She spoke about how she has seen her class change and grow spiritually over the past four years and how proud she is of who they have become.

Faith also shared about the struggle she and her peers face to not find their identity in accolades or accomplishments. She reminded them that they have been “deliberately crafted for a transcendent purpose” which is to follow Christ and strive to be more like Him. Faith challenged her peers to continuously find their identities in Christ.



FAITH SUM-YEE GUAN  
2023 Valedictorian

### Personal Testimony: Jordan Van Duren

Jordan blessed those in attendance as she shared what she called “a true testimony for what God did through HCA.” Jordan explained that as a new HCA student she worried that she wasn’t good enough or “holy” enough to go to heaven. She tried to do everything she could to be good enough, but she knew Jesus wasn’t her priority.

During her junior year, after being challenged by faculty at HCA, she meditated on Romans 6:6-8. She said, “After making a decision for Christ...I’ve had a totally different outlook on serving... Now I see serving as an opportunity to glorify God and show others what He did in my life.”



JORDAN LYNN VAN DUREN  
2023 Testimony



# ing Class of 2023

ONS, GRADUATES!



**Matthew Wessel** \*\* .....Carpentry App. Dykhouse Co.  
**Colby Parker** .....Liberty University  
**Rachel Mackwan** ..... Ramapo College  
**Ashley Torres** \* ..... Ramapo College  
**Abigail Camacho** \*+ ..... Undecided  
**Rachael Feola** \* .....Liberty University  
**Hailey Bysterbusch** \*\*+ .....Purchase College  
**Kate Murtagh** \*+ .....New Jersey Institute of Tech.  
**Brock Burres** ..... Cairn University  
**Elijah Warren** ..... Undecided

#### Row 4:

**Andrew Mark** ..... Rutgers University, Newark  
**Landon Harris** .....Liberty University  
**Christopher Nenoff** .....Rowan University  
**Dylan Salvigsen** .....Liberty University  
**Nicholas DeBlock** .....Liberty University  
**Ryan Stanley** ..... Cairn University  
**Brett Littel** ..... Ramapo College

## 2023 Scholarships & Awards

### PTF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

#### **Academic Excellence Scholarship**

Faith Guan & Luke Mitchell

#### **Defender (All-Around Excellence) Scholarship**

Luke Mitchell

### FAITHFUL SCHOLAR AWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Attended HCA Since Kindergarten: Abigail Camacho, Tyler Kriney, Brett Littel, Luke Mitchell, Elijah Warren

### JACOB EGEDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brock Burres

### WELLSPRINGS COUNSELING SCHOLARSHIP

Faith Guan

### BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

#### **Athletic Booster Club Scholarship**

Brock Burres & Rachael Feola

#### **Music Booster Club Scholarship**

Tyler Kriney

### RONNIE & RENEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Brock Burres

### ACOSTA HISPANIC GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Ashley Torres

### WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Joanna Meharg

# HCA Class of 2027

HIGH SCHOOL, HERE WE COME!

## Graduation Testimony

This year's 8th-grade graduation testimony was shared by Emily Volz. By her own admission, Emily was less than enthusiastic about a school transfer when she first enrolled at HCA in 7th-grade. However, she then shared the details of how she has been completely changed by way of God's work through the godly, understanding, and caring people who affected her spiritual walk and salvation at HCA. Praise God!

### Reflecting on her testimony, Emily shared:

I have grown up in a family of believers and have heard about Jesus for as long as I can remember. But until recently, I did not understand the importance of my spiritual walk – and this is where our school comes in. I truly believe that God has worked through HCA for my salvation...

I learned about the Bible every day. I heard more about God than I had ever known before and came to be aware of the truth, even if it was hard to accept. I began to love Scripture, and this drove me to read the Bible on my own.

Over time I found conviction, and it's not easy to admit, but I realized that I'd been following all sorts of idols for my entire life. In light of this, the bigger picture was made clear: we are meant to live for the glory of God, and fulfillment cannot be found in anything else. Not in materials, not in looks, not in circumstances. To be with God through Christ is eternal life, and to be apart from God is death. Now, it is a joy to say that I have truly submitted to Christ as my Savior...

Everyone that has come to know Jesus through HCA is a living testimony for God's love and providence, and I am glad to be one of them.



INGRID NAWYN  
Guidance Assistant & Registrar



Photo compliments of David Chen Photography

## Headed to High School

These 41 HCA middle school graduates are now high school freshmen! During their graduation ceremony, Valedictorian Aaron Hanna and Salutatorian Madelyn Van Dyk addressed their classmates and teachers, reflecting back on middle school and excitedly looking forward to high school. We are excited for all that lies ahead for HCA's new freshman class.

### HCA's class of 2027 8th-grade graduates were:

Sophie Arrieta	Ashnah Mackwan
William Barry	Lusungu Mahowe
Gianna Batista	Alyssa Manasse
Lincoln Burres	Salome Mejia
Jed Cha	Moriah Ng
Giovanna Cook	Daniela Occhiogrosso
Landon De Boer	Shane Oostdyk
Alexa Ego	Jaimee Parson
Joël Etoile	Joya Prairie
Benjamin Fleming	Emily Said
Mia Grant	Rachel Said
Ethan Guan	Olivia Schmookler
Aaron Hanna	Irene Seo
Chase Hawthorne	Nathanael Slavin
Moze Iton	Angelina Tuminelli
DiLynn Jeffries-El	Adam Turner
Mia Kayal	Madelyn Van Dyk
Kevin Korogodon	Emily Volz
Khairo Lawrence-Francis	Naomi Wheeland
Massimiliano Leone	Elizabeth Yuen
William Lopez	

# Music Notes

## AND ALL THAT JAZZ

### Spring Semester Music Events

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ANNE PAYNTER  
Middle & High School Music Teacher

#### 14th Annual Dessert Theatre: "A Tropical Tangle"

On March 10-11, the HCA Chorale presented its 14th Annual Dessert Theatre, "A Tropical Tangle." This student-written production followed two explorers as they sought to discover the reason behind mysterious disappearances in the tropics. Landing on an uncharted island, the pair uncovered the truth about a magical seashell, and helped a young woman on her journey to forgiveness and grace. 71 cast members, an incredible band, lots of laughs, outstanding vocal performances, and thousands of amazing desserts were the fare for these evenings, and God was glorified through the efforts of everyone involved.



#### HCA Music Ensembles Sweep Music in the Parks Competitions

HCA ensembles won top honors at Music in the Parks on May 13 and May 20:

- Middle School Chorus .....1st place Junior High Choir, Superior Rating (95)
- Allegro Handbells..... 1st place Handbell Choir, Superior Rating (93.25)
- Prelude Handbells.....2nd place Handbell Choir, Superior Rating (90.5)
- Chorale..... 1st Place Mixed Choir I, Superior Rating (94.75)
- Men's Ensemble ..... 1st Place Men's Ensemble, Superior Rating (93.75)
- Women's Ensemble..... 1st Place Women's Choir, Superior Rating (95)
- Servants..... 1st Place Mixed Choir II, Best Overall Choir, Superior Rating (98.75)
- Best Overall Vocal Soloists .....Abigail Camacho, Tyler Kriney, Luke Mitchell



### Servants Minister in the UK

Thirty-eight singers, six chaperones, and twelve family members spent this year's spring break traveling to the UK for Servants of the King's Concert Tour. The tour theme, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness: A Concert of Sacred American Choral Music," drew audiences in, allowing the students to spread the love of the Lord to a wide variety of people.

After flying to Glasgow on Good Friday, the group set out for the beautiful town of Edinburgh, where concert highlights included performances at the stunning Canongate Kirk and participation in Easter morning worship at the renowned Greyfriars Kirk. The group then boarded the train to London, where they spent Monday sightseeing (highlighted by visits to Saint Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Hampton Court). Tuesday brought the opportunity to visit a choral masterclass in the beautiful Mansfield Chapel of

Oxford University, as well as Christ Church and the Bodleian Library. Salisbury was the order of the day on Wednesday, highlighted by ministry in the Wilton Place Care Home, where students sang and visited with the residents, and the magnificent Salisbury Cathedral. Thursday brought a visit to the medieval city of Wells, and performances at the Wells Vineyard Church Food Bank and the stunning gothic Wells Cathedral. On Friday, the group visited Stonehenge and Windsor Castle as they headed back to London in preparation for flights back to JFK on Saturday.

Everywhere they went, Servants of the King brought the joy of the Lord with them through music. Many were genuinely moved to encounter young people who were so willing to share their faith with the world. Hearts were touched, and lives were impacted. Great Is Thy Faithfulness!

# Academy Athletics

GO DEFENDERS!

## Winter & Spring 2023 Defender Athletics



TYLER VAN DYK  
Director of Athletics

### Winter Awards

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

##### N'Dri Assale (11)

2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

##### Brock Burres (12)

Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

##### Joel Walker (11)

1st Team All League  
2nd Team All County

#### HS BOWLING

##### Joey Betz (10)

2nd Team All League

##### Zacharias Burres (10)

2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

##### Cole Higby (10)

Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

##### Amanda Meshraky (11)

Honorable Mention All County

##### Matthew Mitchell (10)

1st Team All League  
1st Team All County

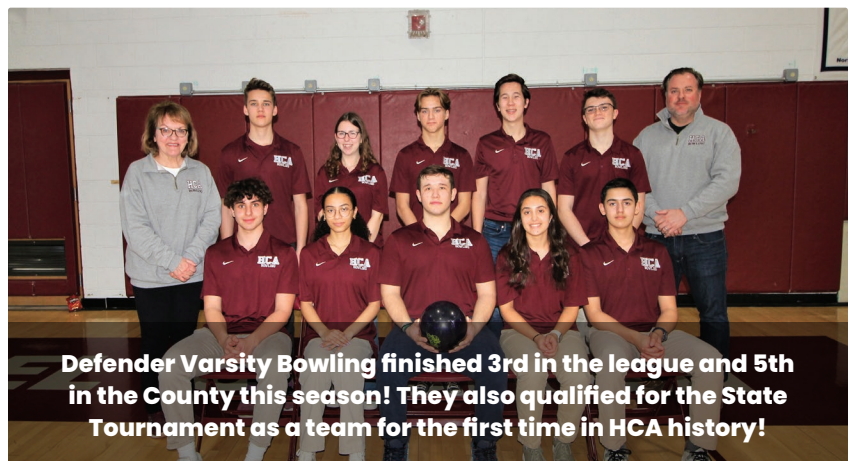
##### Anna Ramasamy (11)

Honorable Mention All County

HCA Bowling finished in the top third of the County Tournament and qualified for the State Tournament, where they finished in the top half of North Jersey Group 1 schools.



Varsity Boys Basketball finished 2nd in the Annual Garfield Christmas Tournament this year, and won the first two rounds of the County Tournament.



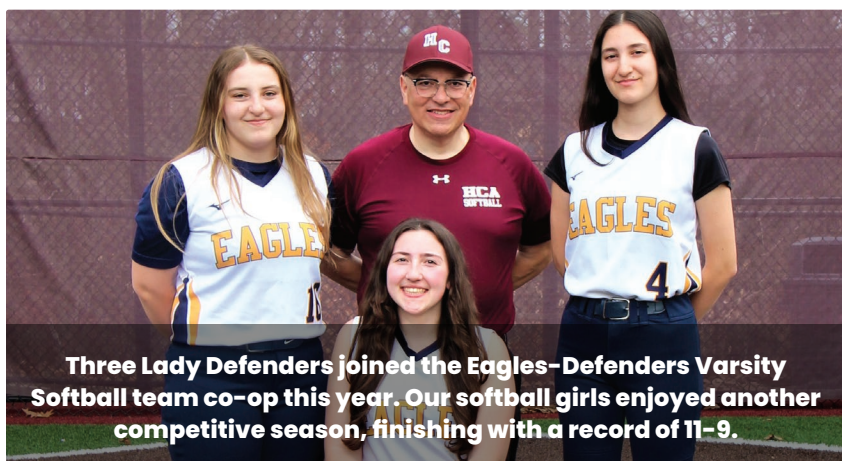
Defender Varsity Bowling finished 3rd in the league and 5th in the County this season! They also qualified for the State Tournament as a team for the first time in HCA history!



This season's Varsity Girls Basketball theme was "Give It Your All..." and these ladies did! Despite their small group, nothing could keep them from playing the game they love - basketball.

# Annual Sports Banquet Awards

**NJIC Sportsmanship Award:** Jordan Van Duren & Elijah Warren  
**PCCA Student-Athletes of the Year:** Maia Kriesel & AJ Mark  
**HCA Defender Athletes of the Year:** Sophia DiGregorio & Joel Walker  
**HCA Athletic Booster Club Scholarship:** Rachael Feola & Brock Burres



# Spring Awards

## BOYS BASEBALL

**Joey Betz (10)**  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Brock Burres (12)**  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Eli Higby (10)**  
Honorable Mention All League

**Joel Walker (11)**  
1st Team All League  
2nd Team All County

## GIRLS SOFTBALL

**Alina Ellis (10)**  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

## HS TRACK & FIELD

**Ava Higby (10)**  
Honorable Mention All County

**AJ Mark (12)**  
1st Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Sean McHugh (11)**  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All League

**Kate Murtagh (12)**  
Honorable Mention All League  
Honorable Mention All County

**Colby Parker (12)**  
2nd Team All League

**Hugh Ryan (10)**  
2nd Team All League

**Dylan Salvigsen (12)**  
Honorable Mention All League

**Robert Taylor (10)**  
2nd Team All League

**Elijah Warren (12)**  
2nd Team All League  
Honorable Mention All County

# Faculty Commencement

## HONORING OUR RETIREES

### HCA Faculty Retirees

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#### Ginee Philippy

LOWER SCHOOL ART TEACHER

**Time at HCA:** 12 Years  
**Classes Taught:** Preschool Art, Kindergarten Art, Grade 1 Art, Grade 2 Art, Grade 3 Art

Walk the Lower School hallways, or visit the annual Lower School Project Fair during the HCA Showcase, and you will experience the beautiful student artwork created in a variety of mediums and styles created under the tutelage of Mrs. Ginee Philippy. Mrs. Philippy retired after twelve years of service at HCA, and a full career in the public school arena prior to coming to HCA. She is known for her creative and inspiring art lessons, her gentleness and care for all of her preschool through 3rd grade students, and her love for Jesus! She will be missed by all – students and colleagues alike. Happy retirement, Mrs. Philippy!



MARCIA RAINEY  
**Lower School Principal**



#### Cathy Alektiar

AP SCIENCE TEACHER

**Time at HCA:** 12 Years  
**Classes Taught:** Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Chemistry

After twelve years of teaching AP Biology and AP Chemistry at HCA, Mrs. Alektiar is retiring from the classroom and is stepping into her new role as HCA's Science Department Chair. Since 2012, Mrs. Alektiar's passion for her subject area has prepared students to enter post-secondary medical and engineering programs. As a mentor, Cathy has counseled students who desire to pursue the sciences and given them not only a strong academic foundation but a Biblical worldview within those fields. Though she will no longer be teaching, we are excited for her to continue her passion in her new role leading HCA's science department.



JENNIFER EELMAN  
**Upper School Principal**

### HCA Staff Retiree

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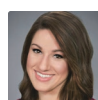
#### Ellen Pelliccio

DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

**Time at HCA:** 18 Years  
**Roles at HCA:** Advancement, Yearbook Advisor, Student Ambassador Coordinator

Ellen Pelliccio. What words are there to adequately honor 18 years of faithful service at HCA? Through those years, Ellen has been an integral and irreplaceable part of so many monumental events at the Academy. More than that, she has been a reliable constant who intentionally, relentlessly,

and unapologetically points those around her to Jesus. Todd Mitchell has referred to her as our "rudder," steering our team through the ups and downs of our department. We all appreciate her passion, institutional knowledge, and the relationships she has built. Ellen has been blessed to serve on the front lines, watching God meet the needs of HCA, and we have been blessed to serve alongside her. Personally, I will miss her wisdom, thoughtful conversation, and contagious laughter. Ellen's bold faith and boldness in sharing truth will be long remembered at HCA.



TINA TATUM  
**Director of Enrollment & Marketing**

# Alumni News

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



**Corey Ommundsen ('08) and Sonja (Davenport) Ommundsen ('08)** welcomed their daughter, Florence Ada, on July 21, 2023. Her name was inspired by the couple's favorite trip to Italy, as well as by Sonja's mother's name. Florence also means "flourishing," and her parents' prayer is that she flourishes like a tree planted by streams of water because her delight is in the law of the Lord!



**Casey Lamb ('09) and Courtney (Steiginga) Lamb ('09)** announced the arrival of their second daughter, Adeline Elise, on February 23, 2023. Addy joins her big sister Evie in the Lamb house, and is growing each day, happy and healthy! Casey, Courtney, Evie, and Addy currently reside in West Lebanon, New Hampshire.



**Katlyn (Kayal) Coggins ('14)** and her husband, Will, welcomed their first daughter, Hope Madeline, on June 10, 2023, at 12:18 pm. Upon her arrival, baby Hope weighed 7 lbs and 9 oz. Hope's parents chose her name out of gratitude for Jesus, our Living Hope! The Coggins family currently resides in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. They are looking forward to the day Hope becomes an HCA Defender!

## HCA Alumni Highlight



Stephen Cobucci ('04) was honored as the 2023 HCA Distinguished Alumni Award recipient at our Annual HCA Banquet & Auction. During his years at HCA, Steve began playing guitar and writing songs. Steve credits his HCA teachers for helping him think

deeply about his faith and worldview as he figured out what God wanted him to do with his musical giftings. After graduating HCA, Steve attended Cedarville University, where he grew in his passion for evangelism. Seeing the beauty of what God had done for him made him increasingly burdened to proclaim it to others. Steve saw his love of guitar and writing songs as a platform for sharing the Gospel. In his junior year of college he formed the band "Wolves At The Gate," a Christian

metal band. In forming this band, he believed he had an opportunity to bring the gospel to those who may not otherwise hear it. He sees his work with the band as an evangelistic opportunity. The lyrics of his songs are packed with sound doctrine, and he includes the gospel message at each show. "Wolves at the Gate" has grown in popularity over the years, releasing multiple records and performing shows around the world. May the Lord continue to bless this ministry!



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