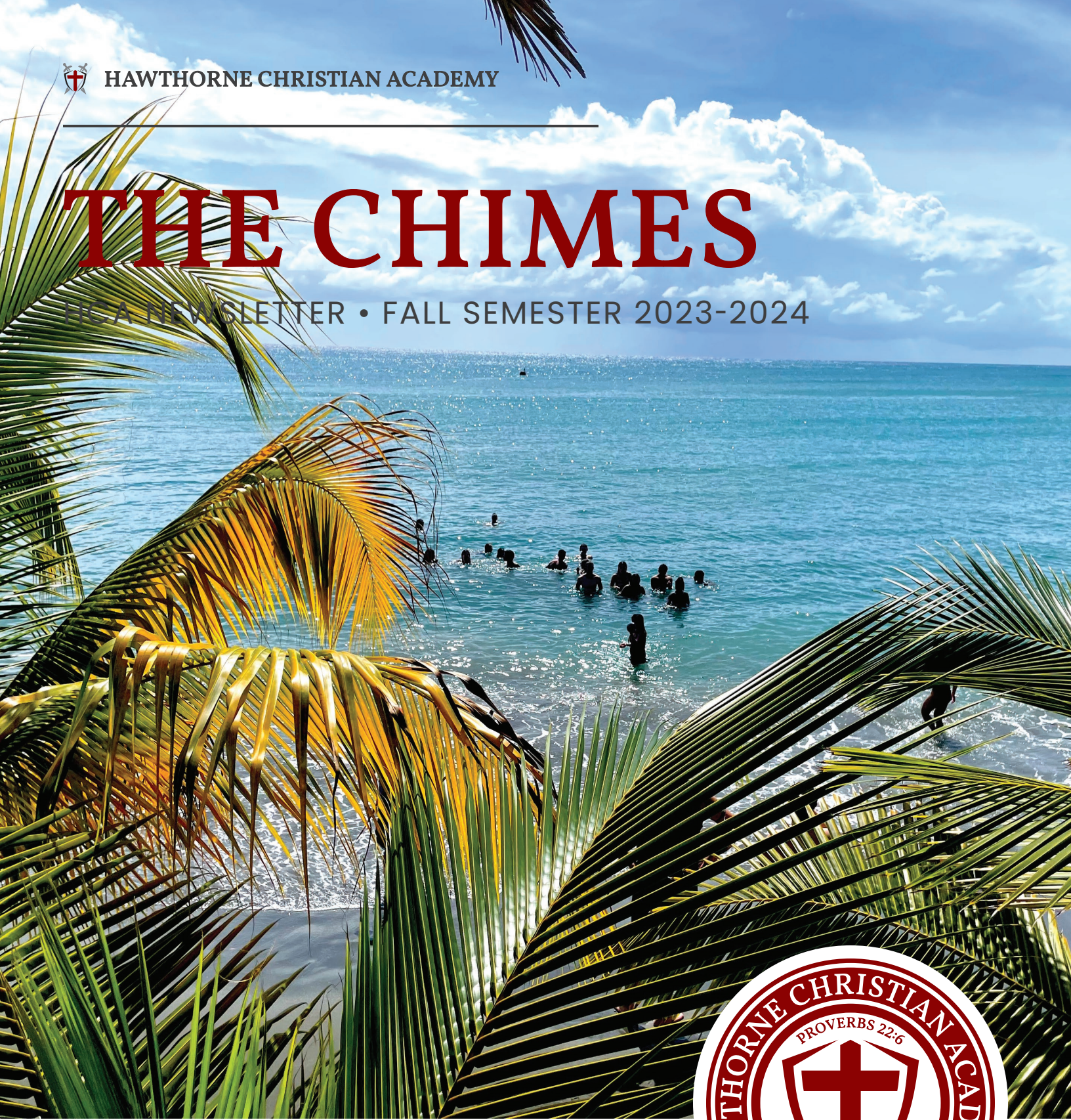


THE CHIMES

HCA NEWSLETTER • FALL SEMESTER 2023-2024



Inaugural Senior Mission Trip

HCA's Seniors spent their class trip week serving in the Dominican Republic with Handfuls of Hope in November 2023.

Read more about the Class of 2024's DR Mission Trip on page 8.



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



Photo Credit

Photos by: David Tierney
and the HCA Yearbook Staff

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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 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

STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith;
be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14



TODD MITCHELL
Head of School

Stand Firm in the Faith!

Christian Education has proven to be a vital part of raising children with a biblical worldview. While a recent Gallup poll showed that the number of people who believe in God and heaven has dropped 16% since 2001, the Nehemiah Institute reports that the vast majority of professing Christian children who hold a biblical worldview are educated in biblical worldview schools, like HCA. Having spoken to recent graduates from HCA, our conversations support this claim. We have heard from many graduates from the class of 2023 who say their faith is strong and they are able to defend their faith by calling upon so much of what they learned at HCA. All glory to God!

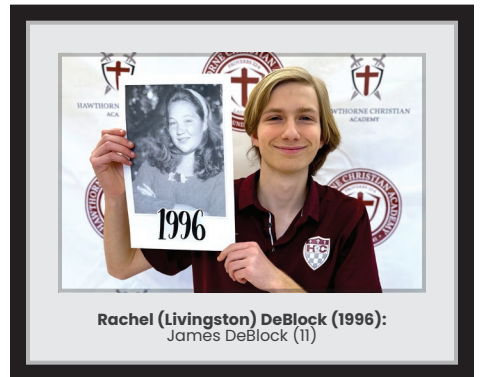
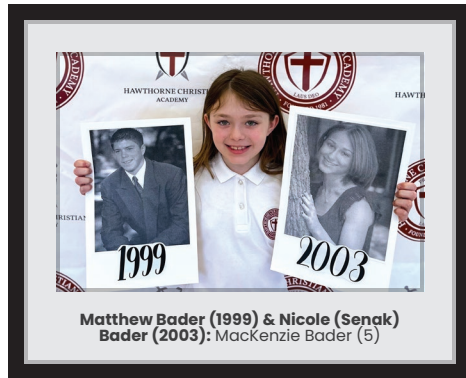
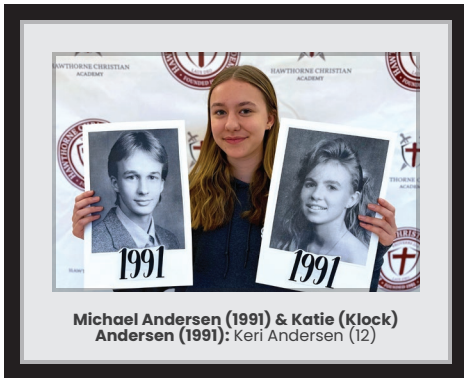
As we know, much of the world is hostile to Biblical Christianity. Although Americans will seldom face severe persecution, the attacks on our faith from culture and media are constant. We are told to look to ourselves for truth, to live for pleasure, and that Biblical Christianity must be altered to conform to American culture. All

of these attacks remind us of Ephesians 6:16 when Paul, discussing the Armor of God, writes, "...take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."

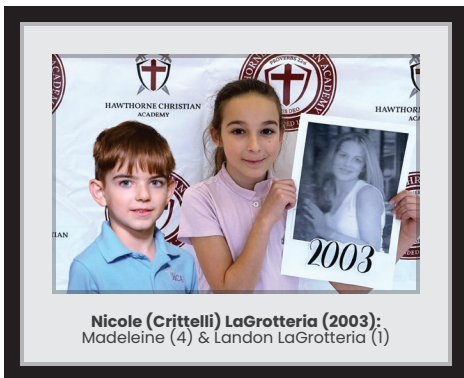
There are flaming arrows trained on our children, seeking to dismantle their faith. As Paul says, faith will be their shield. This year, HCA is focusing on exhorting and equipping our students to "Stand Firm in the Faith." Our theme verse, 1 Corinthians 16: 13-14, calls students to be on their guard, to be courageous and strong, and to stand firm in the faith! One can't help but read the militant tone of these verses. We need to know that we are in a battle for truth, for faith, and for hope! And while we are called to stand firm in the battle, we are also called to "Do everything in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14). How amazing is our God, who calls us to fight our battles with love? Thankfully the LORD has given us the Holy Spirit who gives us all we need to be strong, courageous, and loving, and to "**STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH!**"

Building a Legacy

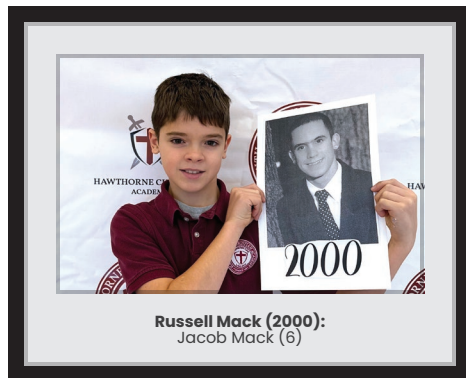
HCA LEGACY STUDENTS 2023-2024



Twenty-seven HCA alumni have forty-two 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?



Nicole (Crittelli) LaGrotteria (2003):
Madeleine (4) & Landon LaGrotteria (1)



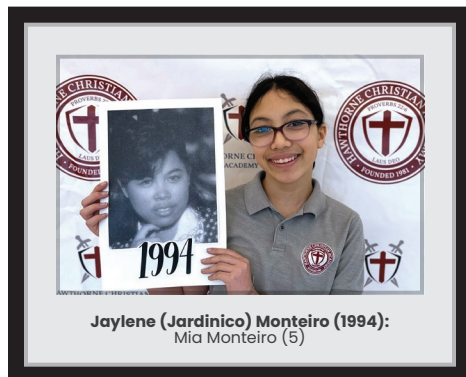
Russell Mack (2000):
Jacob Mack (6)



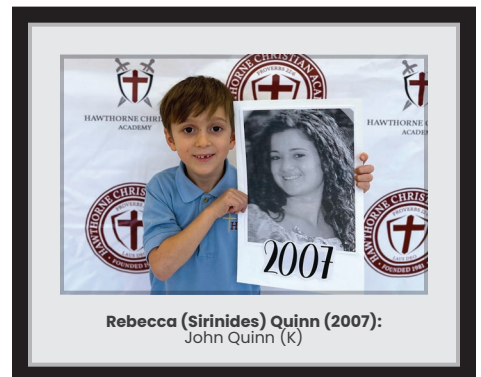
Jacob Minnema (2004):
Caleb (2) & Ellie Minnema (2)



Jordan Minnema (2006):
Laityn (4), Evan (2), & Mason Minnema (K)



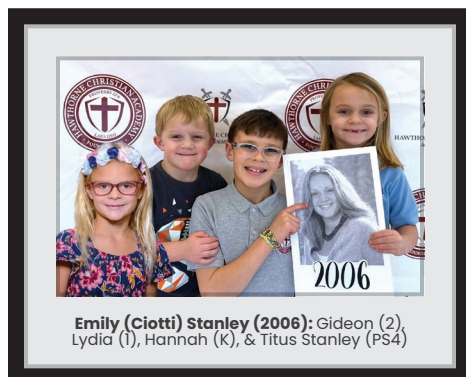
Jaylene (Jardinica) Monteiro (1994):
Mia Monteiro (5)



Rebecca (Sirinides) Quinn (2007):
John Quinn (K)



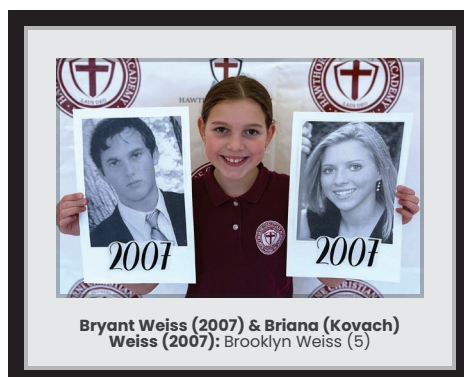
Kevin Standford (1995) & Jennifer (McCausland) Standford (1995):
Olivia (7) & Sienna Standford (5)



Emily (Ciotti) Stanley (2006): Gideon (2), Lydia (1), Hannah (K), & Titus Stanley (PS4)



Jennifer (Parzek) Volz (1992):
Emily (9) & Noah Volz (6)



Bryant Weiss (2007) & Briana (Kovach) Weiss (2007):
Brooklyn Weiss (5)



Anna (Mingos) Zayac (2005):
Bria (3), Nolan (K), & Gavin Zayac (PS4)

Homecoming 2023

WELCOME HOME!



Home Sweet Homecoming

In September, HCA had the joy of hosting our Annual Homecoming, a cherished tradition eagerly anticipated by the HCA community. It was a blessing to witness the sizable turnout, including current families, alumni families, and guests, who basked in the sunshine, surrounded by cheers for our Defender teams celebrating another year of Homecoming game victories. The atmosphere was vibrant, filled with laughter and the enjoyment of complimentary treats like popcorn and cotton candy, courtesy of our dedicated PTF. Our softball field transformed into a hub of activity, offering crafts, face painting, lawn games, and

an array of large inflatables for our younger Defenders. For those seeking respite from the sun, shaded tents and an ice cream truck provided a cool haven. As the event drew to a close, it was evident that the day had instilled joy and gratitude in everyone present. This Homecoming not only inaugurated another school year, but also reinforced the bonds within the HCA Family through a day full of fun and fellowship, celebrating our collective school spirit and unity.



BECKY VANDERBECK
Enrollment & Marketing Assistant

Annual Golf Classic

25TH FALL FUNDRAISER

Thanks, Sponsors!

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SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Jim Jobson, Chairman, Alumni Parent
Paul Murtagh, Alumni Parent
Neal Ramasamy, Parent

HCA celebrated its 25th annual Golf Classic on a beautiful October day at Mansion Ridge Golf Club.



2023-2024 NHS Inductees

On June 8, 2023, twenty-one new members were inducted into HCA's chapter of the National Honor Society.

New Members: Zacharias Burres, Vice President (11); Rachel Bustamante (11); Sydney Chung, Secretary (11); Ivy Cifarelli (12); Grace Cintron (11); Sarah Cook (12); Olivia Feliciano (11); Ashley Guerrero (12); Maxwell Hagan (11); Alexander Hanna (11); Ava Higby (11); Cole Higby (11); Peter How (11); Charmaine Manipon (11); Matthew Mitchell (11); Julianna Porrovecchio (12); Anna Ramasamy (12); Kathryn Rappaport (12); Veronica Roa (12); Hugh Ryan (11); and Neha Venugopal (11). Congratulations, scholars!



KIM BURRES
LS STEM & GATES Teacher • NHS Advisor



animals, singing, and prayer. They enjoyed church on the beach, passed out tracts on the streets, and led worship in the city square (when an onlooker came to faith). Finally, they served in support of the Handfuls of Hope Christian School by providing programming, games, songs, skits, and fun for the students... all for the glory of God!

We praise God for the impact this trip had, not only on those we served, but also in the hearts of our seniors through their service! If you would like to learn more about, or give to, HCA Missions, please email todd.mitchell@hca.org.



TODD MITCHELL
Head of School



Awe-Inspiring Art

AP Studio Art students created a beautiful painting that captures the spirit of this year's theme verse (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). In the painting, amidst rolling hills and towering mountains, a figure stands steadfast on a cliff. The sunrise, a symbol of God's hope and love, bathes the scene. The canvas reflects the creative camaraderie thriving within HCA's art classes, and radiates faith, courage, and God's love. **Student Artists:** Rebekha Altuna (12), Sydney Chung (11), Crystal Kiltz (12), Denisha Liddell (12), and Julianna Porrovecchio (12).



ELIZABETH WESTERMAN
4th-12th Grade Art Teacher

Senior Mission Trip 2023

Class of 2024: Impacting the World for Christ

In November, HCA's Class of 2024 put their faith in action as they traveled to the Dominican Republic to serve with Handfuls of Hope. This was the first class to choose service in the DR over the lights and fun of Disney, our previous senior trip. Although some were hesitant at first, students shared that not only was this trip a great time of fun and bonding, but more importantly, it helped them grow in spiritual maturity as they impacted the world for Christ!

Staying in Santo Domingo, the students traveled to nearby villages, sharing the Gospel with residents by means of music, drama, Bible stories, and personal testimonies. They distributed food through Feed My Starving Children, and painted houses for local church members in need. They brought gifts of snacks and laughter to an orphanage and ministered in a children's hospital with Bibles, stuffed

Highlights

& ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lower School Highlights

Expanded Kindergarten & First Grade STEM Program!

We have doubled STEM time for our Kindergarten and First Grade students to more fully captivate students' curiosity and creativity as their young minds are building lifelong thinking and problem solving skills.

First graders are currently focusing on patterns in the sky, including investigations into the role of the sun, moon, and stars. A fun and yummy activity was assigned for students to create the phases of the moon with oreos, a project that was fully enjoyed and devoured!

Additionally, to introduce Kindergartners to Forces and Motion, as part of our Kindergarten's Forces and Motion studies, Mrs. Cingale provided cars, string, sticks, and fuzzy sticks to students then asked, "How can we get the car from one side of the table to the other side of the table?" I doubt you could come up with as many novel ways to use force to create motion as they did!



Spiritual Emphasis Day for LS Students

Our spiritual emphasis day began with a chapel for our preschoolers highlighting God's love and how wonderfully He created them. Our day continued as the Kindergarten through 5th grade students enjoyed a musical adventure through the Bible presented during multiple extended chapels. Music, games, and laughter filled the Sanctuary as we learned, sang, and prayed through the day!

Our guest presenters were Billy and Cassie Lord (and, of course, Kiku the Monkey!) of Get Real conferences.

Students brought in and prayed over their OCC boxes - nearly 250 donated boxes to be sent around the world! "Get Real" also presented *Why a Biblical Worldview Matters* and *Raising Tech-Wise Parents* for HCA parents.



MARCIA RAINEY
Lower School Principal

Spiritual Emphasis 2023

"You need to speak your truth!" So says the modern American, and sadly enough, some who name the Name of Jesus Christ. The absurdity of the statement can only be understood if one actually thinks through the statement and its ramifications. When we use words like truth, justice, love, we presuppose those words have actual meaning corresponding to reality, or what really is. If truth is not objective (outside of my personal preferences, desires, and likes) then I am a fool on a fool's errand.

The Scriptures paint a different picture. Jesus, the very personification of truth (John 14:6), states that if we hold to His teaching we are truly His disciples (John 8:31). And why is this important? Verse 32 then reminds us from our Lord's mouth that we cannot only know the truth, but that this truth will set us free (John 8:32). There is an absolute truth to be known, understood, and obeyed.

Our theme for the school year, emphasized during our Spiritual Emphasis program in the Fall of 2023 is, "Stand Firm in the Faith!" 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 declares, "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love" (New International Version).

So, what are you standing on? Can you say, like the hymn writer, "On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand?" Is Jesus the anchor for your soul? Or have you built your life on a sandy foundation which will utterly collapse and end in your eternal ruin? Beloved, consider the great promises of God found in Jesus, the One who gave Himself for sinners such as we. There is no other hope.



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

Faculty Features

WELCOME ABOARD!



Alison Ciarletta

LS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Education: BA Art Education;
BS Physical Education

Ms. Alison (Ali) Ciarletta graduated from William Paterson University in 2022 with a degree in Art Education. Upon discovering God's desire for her to become a Physical Education teacher, she went back to school and added Physical Education to her teaching degree in the Winter of 2023. Her educational experience includes serving at Park Ridge Day Camp for eight years in the positions of Counselor, Head Counselor, and Assistant Director. She believes her purpose is to teach the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual benefits of physical activity; and also to give children the skills to be physically active for a lifetime! In her free time, she enjoys playing various sports, biking, hiking, and wildlife photography.



Stephanie De Boer

PS-3RD GRADE ART

Education: BS Interior Design,
(Art Minor)

Mrs. De Boer's love for creating and art started at a very early age. She went to school for Interior Design and Art and spent many years in the design field. After sending her youngest off to kindergarten, the Lord led her into the world of teaching. She found that one of the joys of her heart is watching students realize how our ultimate Creator, God, uniquely fashioned each one of them with gifts and talents to be used for Him. When not serving at Hawthorne Gospel Church or teaching at HCA, Mrs. De Boer loves spending time with her husband and three kiddos (HCA students, Connor, Morgan, and Sadie), baking, designing (interior design and graphic design), playing the piano, spending time at the lake, and enjoying the beach.

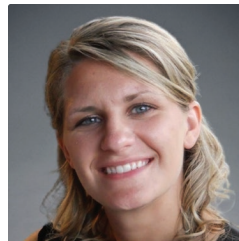


Kristen Flynn

5TH GRADE TEACHER

Education: BS Education;
AA Humanities & Social Science

Mrs. Flynn has taught in Christian schools since 2014. She has taught a variety of ages and subjects, ranging from grade 2 through grade 12. She especially enjoys teaching classes in the maths and sciences. Mrs. Flynn spends her free time with her family - her husband, three adult daughters, and one son-in-law. She and her husband serve the Lord together in their church. Mrs. Flynn is part of the Children's Ministry and the Music Ministry, and teaches the ladies' Sunday school class. Her favorite activities are reading, gardening, playing piano, crafting, and paddle boarding. It is Mrs. Flynn's desire to "tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done." Psalm 78:4



Christina Kowalew

4TH GRADE TEACHER

Education: BS Childhood
Education

Mrs. Kowalew started her teaching career in 2005. She has a passion for teaching and has always loved to find new ways to engage today's learners! Throughout her career, Mrs. Kowalew has taught in both Christian schools and in public schools at the elementary level. More recently, the Lord made it clear to her that He has called her back to the Christian school setting, and she is thrilled to be joining the HCA team. Mrs. Kowalew's two children, Leah and Lucas, have also joined the HCA Family. Outside of school, Mrs. Kowalew loves serving in the children's and youth department in her church as well as singing on the worship team. She also loves volleyball, hiking, visiting the beach, cooking, and spending time with her family.

HCA welcomed seven new faculty members and a new staff member this year! We are blessed to partner with these godly individuals to serve HCA for the Lord's glory.



Julia Raudenbush

HS PSYCHOLOGY, AP HISTORY,
MS LEARNING CENTER

Education: BA English Literature,
(Psychology Minor)

Mrs. Raudenbush is returning home to HCA after a 23-year hiatus. An HCA alumnus, she is also a former faculty member. Mrs. Raudenbush left HCA in 2000 to raise her family. While she has enjoyed the chaotic balancing act of stay-at-home mom, active church ministry volunteer, and teacherpreneur, she is excited to return to full-time teaching at her alma mater. For the past 23 years, Mrs. Raudenbush has run a successful private teaching service focused on academic writing, creative writing, critical reading, and study skills. She looks forward to applying these areas of expertise to her classes at HCA. In her free time, Mrs. Raudenbush enjoys reading, writing, wandering hiking trails and museums, and paddling in her kayak.



Stephanie Reinertsen

MS LANGUAGE ARTS

Education: BA English/Writing,
BA Secondary Education,
MA Teaching

Mrs. Reinertsen has been teaching high school English for 14 years. She is excited to now be teaching in the Middle School at Hawthorne Christian Academy! In her classroom, you will find lots of open discussion, engaging content, and learning through fun. Her students appreciate the way she brings the Bible into each lesson of her Language Arts classes. She is passionate about biblical integration in education. In her free time, Mrs. Reinertsen loves spending time outdoors with her husband and two beautiful children. She loves to read, play piano, write music, be at the beach, and travel. Mrs. Reinertsen is the worship leader for her church and loves being used by God to lead people into worship.



Lourdes Soto

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Education: BS Accounting & Finance

Mrs. Lourdes Soto joined the HCA team mid-year during the 2022–2023 school year as the Executive Assistant to the Head of School. In her role, she works closely with Mr. Mitchell and the Advancement Team. Born in New Jersey and raised in California, Mrs. Soto worked in corporate accounting most of her career. In 2019, she worked for a non-profit organization, STAR 99.1, and also served at Lighthouse Pregnancy Resource Center in Hawthorne. Mrs. Soto is married and has a beautiful blended family. She and her husband serve at their home church as leaders in the couples ministry and on prayer teams. Mrs. Soto has a passion to pray for nations around the world, read, go on nature walks, visit the beach, and travel.



Sherry Tannickal

HS CHEMISTRY, AP CHEMISTRY

Education: BS Biology,
M.Ed Curriculum & Instruction

Ms. Tannickal grew up in northern New Jersey, but then completed her undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Dallas. It was there that she felt led by the Lord to a career in teaching and began her journey to becoming a Secondary education Science teacher. After completing her Bachelor's degree in Biology, she moved back to New Jersey, where she had grown up, with the hopes of beginning her career in secondary education. Ms. Tannickal has a passion for instructing and guiding students and is excited to be teaching Chemistry and AP Chemistry at HCA. Aside from teaching, Ms. Tannickal also loves playing volleyball and badminton, and enjoys baking, cooking, and reading in her free time.

Academy Athletics

GO DEFENDERS!

Fall 2023 Defender Athletics



TYLER VAN DYK
Director of Athletics

This fall, HCA Athletics celebrated another season marked by remarkable achievements and continued excellence. Our athletes' hard work and dedication were recognized widely, with nine Defenders receiving NJIC All-League honors, eleven earning PCCA All-County awards, two being distinguished with SCANJ All-State honors, and four cross country runners qualifying for the NJSIAA Championship Meet. During HCA's Annual Homecoming, our Varsity Boys Soccer, Varsity Girls Soccer, and Varsity Girls Volleyball teams all triumphed before an enthusiastic crowd of Defender supporters.

The Middle School Lady Defenders successfully retained their title at the 2023 Coppa Italia Tournament, echoing their 2022 victory and showcasing the depth of talent within our

ranks. Our commitment to fostering student-athletes who excel not only in their sport but also as Christian scholars in a highly competitive environment is unwavering. Both Middle School and High School athletes focused on development and competition, understanding what it means to be a Christian-Scholar-Athlete amidst the challenges of league, county, and state schedules.

The unwavering support from families, friends, alumni, and fans continues to be a pillar of strength for Defender Athletics. This community engagement not only fuels our athletes' spirits but also reinforces the values that define our programs. As we reflect on this season's successes, we are reminded of the collective effort and spirit that propel HCA Athletics forward.



HCA 2023 Defender Varsity Boys Soccer



HCA 2023 Defender Varsity Girls Soccer



HCA 2023 Defender Cross Country



HCA 2023 Defender Girls Volleyball

**Defenders... run with perseverance
the race marked out for us, fixing our
eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2)**

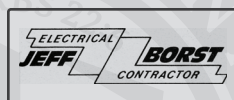


HCA 2023 Defender Middle School Boys Soccer



HCA 2023 Defender Middle School Girls Soccer

Thank You, Triple Play Sponsors!



Fall Sports Awards

⊗ HS CROSS COUNTRY

- Grace Cintron (11)**
2nd Team All-League
Honorable Mention All-County
- Cole Higby (11)**
1st Team All-League
Honorable Mention All-County
- Victor Henriquez-Baez (11)**
Honorable Mention All-League
- Colby Oostdyk (10)**
Honorable Mention All-League
Honorable Mention All-County
- Anna Rypkema (12)**
1st Team All-League
Honorable Mention All-County

⊗ VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

- Andrew Hart (12)**
Honorable Mention All-League
All-State
- Peter How (11)**
Honorable Mention All-County
- Matthew Mitchell (11)**
Honorable Mention All-County
- Joel Walker (12)**
First Team All-League
Second Team All-County
All-State

⊗ VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

- Bao DeLorenzo (9)**
Honorable Mention All-League
- Ava Hartung (11)**
Honorable Mention All-County
- Ava Lamitola (12)**
Honorable Mention All-County

⊗ GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

- Sophia DiGregorio (12)**
1st Team All-League
2nd Team All-County
- Mia Morales (11)**
Honorable Mention All-County
- Christine Williams (12)**
Honorable Mention All-League
Honorable Mention All-County

Music Notes

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

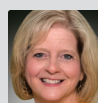


Servants of the King Christmas Season

Servants of the King kicked off the 2023 Christmas season with an HCA community favorite - singing with Ireland's Keith and Kristyn Getty, writers of modern hymns and carols, at their annual Carnegie Hall presentation of "Sing! An Irish Christmas." It was a worshipful, inspiring evening celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

At the end of the Christmas concert season, Servants of the King spent a special day bringing Christmas cheer to some of our community's senior citizens. In the morning, they visited The Vista, a continuing care retirement community in Wyckoff, New Jersey. While there, the students presented

a concert of favorite carols, old and new, interspersed with Scripture, and shared the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the afternoon, the Servants sang for the residents, families, and staff members at Villa Marie Claire, Holy Name Hospital's residential hospice care facility in Saddle River, New Jersey. It was a special and meaningful experience as the students brought light and hope into the lives of the patients and their families in difficult times.



ANNE PAYNTER
Middle & High School Music Teacher

Alumni News

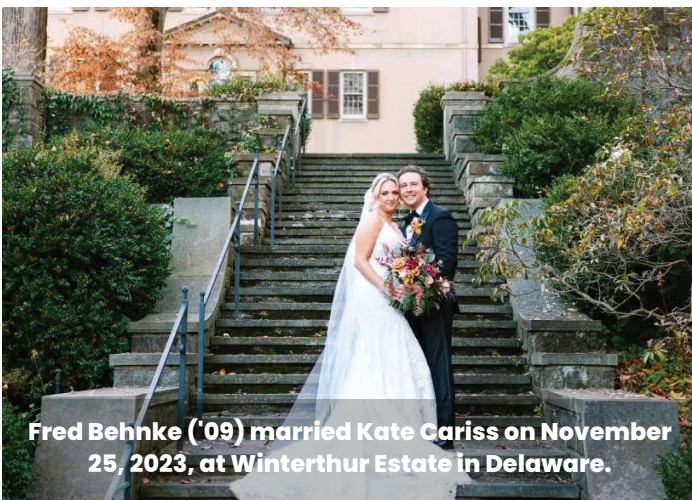
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Daniel ('10) and Lauren Aust announced the birth of their son, Dante Salvatore Aust, on April 30, 2023.



Maeve Barclay ('20) and Luke Hart ('21) celebrated their wedding on December 29, 2023, at HGC.



Fred Behnke ('09) married Kate Cariss on November 25, 2023, at Winterthur Estate in Delaware.



Kasia (Jezequel, '08) and Chris Fundora welcomed little Miss Halle James Fundora on June 30, 2023.



Caleb ('15) and Tanner Hart welcomed their first son, Liam Douglas Hart, in September 2023.



Jonathan Williams ('16) and Hannah Barragan ('17) got married on November 3, 2023, in Moonachie, NJ.



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ACADEMY

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to **grow** in spiritual
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to **achieve** academic
excellence



and to **impact** the
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