★ HAWTHORNE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# THE CHING SEMESTER 2023-2024

## Lights... Camera... Catastrophe!

Get ready to relive this year's Dessert Theatre! Our students dazzled audiences with a show full of drama, intrigue, and stunning musical performances.

HRIST

OUNDED

Read more about HCA's unforgettable 15th annual Dessert Theatre on page 11.



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

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Cover photo by David Tierney

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#### **HCA Leadership Team**



KEN BURRES Director of Technology



DEBORAH FUCCI Director of School Counseling Services







MARCIA RAINEY Lower School Principal



TODD MITCHELL Head of School

TINA TATUM Director of Enrollment & Marketing (Chimes Editor)



TYLER VAN DYK Director of Athletics

# A Word In Season

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEAD OF SCHOOL





TODD MITCHELL Head of School

## "And after you have done everything, to **STAND.**"

I recently returned from a short-term summer mission trip to the Dominican Republic with an HGC pastor and four HCA alumni to serve with Handfuls of Hope, HCA's ministry partner for our annual Senior Class Mission Trip.

While in the DR, I met Rosemary and toured her home, which is being prepared for demolition. Rosemary is a 36-year-old teacher and mother of two. She lives in a windowless home that is a patchwork of corrugated metal and scraps of wood. Sunlight shines through the roof and exterior panels and there are no interior walls to divide the meager structure into living areas. Not long ago, the home, now empty, was filled with nearly a foot of water and mud due to runoff from heavy rains. Additionally, Rosemary recently learned that she is losing her hearing.

While learning of Rosemary's story and touring her home were humbling and heart-wrenching, I parted from Rosemary in awe of our amazing God, rejoicing for the comfort He gives His children through the Holy Spirit and for His eternal promises! Rosemary is not despondent, sad, or hopeless. She is kind, joyful, courageous, steadfast, loving, hopeful, and full of the peace that passes understanding. She is appreciative for what she has, but more importantly, for who she has. Rosemary loves the Lord, serves Him gladly, glorifies Him in her words and actions, and looks forward to being with Him in eternity!

One week later, as I sit in my air-conditioned office (nearly as big as Rosemary's whole house) with beautiful views through giant windows, comfortable furniture, and soft carpeted floors, I am struck by Rosemary's witness as she lives out our 2023-2024 HCA Theme and verse, "Stand Firm in the Faith" from I Corinthians 16:13-14.

May we each be inspired by Rosemary to live as Paul encourages us in these verses. May we Stand Firm regardless of our circumstances, be courageous and strong in the face of adversity, and do everything in love, because He first loved us. May we walk in faith, joy, love, and gratitude for God's amazing grace, and most importantly for the propitiation for our sins through the blood of Christ. May the Lord work through HCA to lead students to know this God, to trust in His true and precious promises, and to Stand Firm in the Faith!

# **HCA Highlights**

ACTIVITIES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, & CAMPUS FEATURES

#### **Lower School Happenings**



MARCIA RAINEY Lower School Principal

#### **Kindergarten Coin Fair**

Don't you learn more when you're having fun? We do in HCA Lower School! This spring, our Kindergarteners learned coin recognition, coin values, and adding mixed coins. Then, our creative and fun Kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Mirabella and Mrs. Marota, with help from our generous PTF, created a Coin Fair extravaganza with carnival-like games and snacks, each with various costs and available for purchase to our students. Kindergartners used their problem-solving skills to determine which games they wanted to play and what they wanted for their snack in order to budget, sort, and add their mixed coins throughout the event. Kindergarten students were also seen sharing coins with their classmates so that this real-life application included lessons related to spending with care and giving, all the while having a lot of learning fun!

## **Feed My Starving Children**

On April 26, 2024, HCA students in grades 4–12, faculty, and volunteers had a wonderful time serving together during Hawthorne Gospel Church's "Feed My Starving Children" event. The students worked hard to pack a total of 167 boxes of food, which is enough to feed approximately 100 children for an entire year! The Feed My Starving Children MannaPack meals are shipped and distributed all over the world. Our senior class has the privilege of praying over and distributing these packs during their class missions trip to the Dominican Republic with Handfuls of Hope. What a blessing to see the process come full circle.

This service opportunity is an important part of Hawthorne Christian Academy's mission to impact the world for Christ. Praise God we can meet this most basic need in children's lives through this service opportunity.

#### **NNJCSA** Competitions

Congratulations to the HCA Lower School students who competed at the NNJCSA (Northern New Jersey Christian School Association) competitions during the 2023-2024 spring semester, and who earned first place for their division (grades 3-5) at the Bible Competition, Math Competition, and Field Day Competition. At each of these events, two students from each Lower School grade competed in representation of HCA, and many also earned individual awards. Mrs. Do Yon Hwang, HCA's Curriculum Coordinator, was the faculty advisor for Bible and Math competitions, leading practice sessions and the team. Coach Kevin Standford was the faculty advisor and event host for Field Day at HCA. Way to go, Lower School Defenders!



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.

"Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same" (Luke 3:11, New International Version).



JENNIFER EELMAN **Upper School Principal** 

# Annual Banquet & Auction STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH!

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Banquet

HCA held its annual Banquet on March 14 at the elegant Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne. This event, centered on HCA's 2023-2024 theme, "Stand Firm in the Faith," was a resounding success, bringing together family and friends in a celebration of faith, community, and generosity.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award to Mr. Kyle De Boer, a member of the HCA class of 1994. Currently the Associate Director of Medical Affairs at Becton Dickinson and head of the Men's Ministry at Cornerstone Christian Church, Kyle delivered an inspiring speech in which he thanked his HCA teachers for their enduring influence on his life and emphasized the foundational role the academy played in his development.

The Building Foundations for Life Award was presented to Doug and Jenifer Hart, dedicated HCA parents and alumni



TINA TATUM
Director of Enrollment & Marketing

parents. In their heartfelt address, the Harts gave thanks for the family that they have found at HCA. Their humility and generosity were commended, acknowledging the impact their contributions have on students, families, and faculty.

The evening's Guest Speaker, Mrs. Jeanne Lewis, a cherished HCA faculty member from 2006–2022, spoke further on the theme, "Stand Firm in the Faith." She challenged students to apply what they learn at HCA in order to grow spiritually and to stand firm amidst life's challenges. Mrs. Lewis's life exemplifies steadfast faith, and her words provided godly wisdom and encouragement to the HCA community.

The 2024 HCA Banquet was a God-honoring event full of joy and purpose. The generous support of HCA highlighted your commitment to God's work. We extend our deepest thanks to everyone who made this event possible and successful.



## Thank You, 2024 Banquet Sponsors!

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ADVANCEMENT TEAM Todd Mitchell, Head of School Tina Tatum, Director of Enrollment & Marketing Gianna Occhiogrosso Lourdes Soto Becky Vanderbeck

## Jog-A-Thon 2024 HCA ON THE RUN



## Jog, Defenders, Jog!

HCA's highly anticipated annual Jog-a-Thon was a grand success, showcasing our strong sense of community and enjoyment among our families. Held on a beautiful, sunny day with a refreshing breeze, the event saw enthusiastic participation from parents, friends, and supporters who gathered at Defender Field to cheer on our students as they ran to raise funds for the school they love. Faculty members, including teachers and administrators, also joined in the fun, completing several laps themselves. The delicious aroma coming from the grill filled the air, thanks to our dedicated parents who barbequed approximately 900 hamburgers and hot dogs for the hungry participants. The enthusiastic response, evidenced by smiles and empty plates, celebrated the popularity of this annual meal. The overwhelming support and love we receive from our families for the Jog-a-Thon is truly touching.

This year, the HCA community united to raise an impressive record of nearly \$43,000, demonstrating their commitment to our mission. The success of this event is a testament to the dedication and generosity of all involved. We are deeply grateful and feel profoundly blessed by the continued partnership of our supporters, which enables HCA to further its mission and impact. Praise be to God for those who collaborate with HCA to support His work on our campus!



BECKY VANDERBECK Advancement Assistant

# **HCA Showcase**

## ANNUAL ART EXHIBITS & INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL







## 2024 Art Exhibits



ELIZABETH WESTERMAN 4th-12th Art Teacher

#### Annual Upper School Gallery Walk

It is always bittersweet to see a senior class graduate. There is so much ahead for each of them, yet the group that gathered daily throughout the year will never be the same. Over the last year, I have watched my junior and senior Studio Art class grow, bond, become vulnerable, challenge each other, build one another up, and courageously "put themselves out there" creatively. In May, we had the pleasure of putting on our annual Gallery Walk event, an art show that honors the God-given gifts of each student in that class, as well as the talents of the budding student-artists at HCA. I am so proud of everyone who participated.

#### **Annual Lower School Project Fair**

The Lower School Project Fair was an amazing night that celebrated the creativity, hard work, and God-given gifts of our students. You could feel the buzz of excitement as you walked in classrooms and down halls that were bursting with colorful posters, meticulously crafted papers, and creative art projects. Students' faces lit up as friends and loved ones "oohed" and "ahhed" at every piece. A special thank you goes out to all the classroom teachers who spent countless hours setting our students up for success and making the evening so beautiful.

STEPHANIE DE BOER **PS-3rd Art Teacher** 

## **Conservatory Recital**

We are grateful to God for blessing us with another incredible year-end Instrumental Conservatory recital! This program showcases the Godgiven talents of our instrumental students in grades 4-12 who play brass, woodwinds, percussion, and strings. More than 70 young musicians performed at this year's event. The program opened with delightful solos by our 4th and 5th graders. This year, we also started a Lower School Band, who performed a stellar piece together! As the program progressed through the grades, it culminated in a performance by the HCA Middle and High School Concert Band, featuring pieces such as "Happy," "Oye Como Va," and "Jive At Five." Our younger musicians are undoubtedly inspired to continue working hard to join this exciting and fun band in the future.

I am deeply thankful to direct HCA's instrumental program and to let God's light shine through our young musicians. To God be the glory!



JOHN PETERSON
4th-12th Grade Instrumental Teacher

#### **STEM Market**

HCA 5th-graders made a variety of items to sell at the 4th annual STEM Market. Some of the items sold were bracelets, 3D printed clocks, water bottles, artwork, soaps, key chains, bookmarks, stickers, magnets, hats, bags, jewelry, candles, and more! Throughout the year, the students learned about inventing products, production, marketing, and business finances, such as: expenses, tithing, profit, and losses. The students were proud of their hard-earned money.



KIM BURRES STEM & GATES Teacher

# The HCA Graduat

## CONGRATULATIC



#### \*Honors, \*\*High Honors, +NHS <u>Row 1:</u> Rebekha Altuna ......NJ Institute of Technology Laura Restrepo ... .Undecided ..... Passaic County Community Roselynn Gauthier..... .....Ohio State University Anna Ramasamy \*\*+...... Veronica Roa \*+ ..... ..... Kean University Crystal Kiltz..... .....Montclair State University Julianna Porrovecchio \*\*+ .....US Air Force Academy Cecilia Soheily \*\*+..... Manhattan School of Music Soleille Manasse .. .....Seton Hall University Sabrina Kioumji \*+ .. .....Cairn University Amanda Meshraky \*\*+..... ... Rutgers University Ava Lamitola \*\*+ ..... ......Cedarville University Mary Anne Cruz ....Montclair State University Sarah Cook \*\*+ ......Rochester Institute of Technology Row 2

| <u>NUW 2.</u>         |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Grace Olivia Mark **+ | Rutgers University             |
| Eliot Lee *           | Rutgers University             |
| Julie Awad *+         | Liberty University             |
| Ryan Hahn             | Franklin and Marshall College  |
| Rachel Thomas         | Rutgers University             |
| N'Dri Assale          | Palm Beach Atlantic University |
| Denisha Liddell **+   | Spelman College                |
| Caleb Mathew *+       | Rutgers University             |
| Keri Andersen **+     | Gordon College                 |
| Erick Garcia          |                                |
|                       |                                |



#### Valedictorian: Christine Williams

In her graduation address, valedictorian Christine Williams spoke to the audience and her fellow graduates about the struggle to answer the question, "Who are you?" She addressed her peers and encouraged them that who they are is not found in what they do, are good at, or look like, but rather their value is given to them by God who loves them and has made them in His own image.

Christine encouraged her classmates to hold fast to the love of God, the lessons they have learned, and the relationships they built with teachers and classmates at HCA as they head out into the world.



CHRISTINE BRITTANY WILLIAMS 2024 Valedictorian

#### Salutatorian: Natalie Hanna

In her commencement speech, salutatorian Natalie Hanna addressed attendees on the subject of contentment. She beseeched her peers, as they begin a new chapter, to not become discouraged when expectations are not met, but rather to find God at the center of all things. This change of perspective will allow these new graduates to see God's goodness and be content in any situation.

DEBORAH FUCCI Director of School Counseling Services

Natalie reminisced about the good times she and her classmates shared as a class throughout high school, and admonished each of them to continue to stand firm in their faith as they go their separate ways.



NATALIE GRACE HANNA 2024 Salutatorian

#### Spring Semester 2023-2024 | THE CHIMES NEWSLETTER

# ing Class of 2024

NS, GRADUATES!



#### <u>Row 3:</u> Omar Guardado ..... Kathryn Rappaport

| <pre>(athryn Rappaport *+)</pre> | University of South Card      |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Andrew How                       | NJ Institute of Techno        |
| Christina Orr **+                | Charleston Southern Unive     |
| <b>Frygve Johannesen</b>         | Cedarville Unive              |
| Ashley Guerrero **+              | Rutgers Unive                 |
| Wongani Mahowe                   | Montclair State Unive         |
| Zara Atekpe **+                  | Stevens Institute of Techno   |
| Jonathan Yoo **+                 | University of Southern Califo |
|                                  |                               |

#### <u>Rows 4 & 5:</u>

Jonathan Trabal Esteban Yepes Natalie Hanna \*\*+ Sean McHugh Jessica Gessner \*\*+... Joel Walker \*\*+ Sophia DiGregorio \*\*+ Andrew Hart \* Christine Williams \*\*-<u>Nath</u>an Harris Palm Beach Atlantic University Montclair State University Wyotech Syracuse University Lancaster Bible College Liberty University Zeller Electric (Workforce) Undecided

.Ramapo College

olina

#### **Not Pictured:**

Ivory Cifarelli \*+..... Anna Rypkema \*\*... .....Palm Beach Atlantic University .....Purdue University

## 🕱 2024 Scholarships & Awards

#### PTF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

Academic Excellence Scholarship

Christine Williams & Natalie Hanna

**Defender (All-Around Excellence) Scholarship** Sophia DiGregorio

#### FAITHFUL SCHOLAR AWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Attended HCA Since Kindergarten: Keri Andersen, Julie Awad, Sarah Cook, Sophia DiGregorio, Jessica Gessner, Natalie Hanna, Andrew Hart, Ava Lamitola, Caleb Mathew, Laura Restrepo, Joel Walker

JVD SCHOLARSHIP Grace Olivia Mark

NAVY ROTC SCHOLARSHIP

WELLSPRINGS COUNSELING SCHOLARSHIP

Soleille Manasse

#### BOOSTER CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

Athletic Booster Club Scholarship Sophia DiGregorio & Joel Walker

Music Booster Club Scholarship

Cecilia Soheily

ACOSTA HISPANIC GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Veronica Roa

JACOB EGEDY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Joel Walker

ROD INNIS "WALK IN TRUTH" SCHOLARSHIP

Ava Lamitola

RONNIE & RENEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP Joel Walker

Anna Rypkema

# HCA Class of 2028

HIGH SCHOOL, HERE WE COME!

#### **Grad Testimony**

8th-grade graduate, Soniya Samuel, shared her experience of how God opened her eyes to the brokenness in the world and the brokenness in herself during her testimony speech at HCA's middle school graduation. She reflected on a difficult time in her life when she suffered from a broken leg, the passing of her grandfather, and the COVID-19 guarantines, all which hit around the same time. God used a number of other factors as well - her youth group, a phone call with a family member, and her pastor - to help answer questions about who she was and the purpose of her life. She was drawn to a video she found on social media that referenced Bible verses and, while also considering a message from her pastor, she recognized that the void in her life from these questions can only be filled by God. She was convicted for the wrongs she had done against God and recognized the sacrifice Jesus made by dying on the cross to pay the penalty for her sins. She decided she wanted to give her life to Christ and be in a relationship with Him. This changed her and provided the answer she was looking for. She now knows she is a child of God and her purpose is "to share God's love to everyone and to show people that there is hope when you feel like you are alone."



10

INGRID NAWYN Upper School Assistant & Registrar



## **Headed to High School**

These forty-one members of HCA's middle school graduating class are now officially high school freshmen! During the 8th-grade graduation ceremony, the 2024 Valedictorian, Alyssa Ng, and Salutatorian, Edward Hwang, 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 2028 8th-grade graduates were:

Samuel Akyon Ephrem Alpar Olivia Amoroso Arlena Backhus Jeremy Basta Morgan Bysterbusch Alexis Cappello Gianna Cappello Adriana Ceylan Andrew Ceylan Morgan Clarke Evan Colena Hope Delgado Callan Egbert Isabella Estrada Daniel Garcia-Feliz Ashley Gioe Madison Hammett Nathan Hoogmoed Edward Hwang Jace Kestenholz Serin Kim Isabella Leone Zachary Littel Isaac Lopez Robert Masi Acisclo Melendez Sofia Melo Evangelina Miller Alyssa Ng Anastasia Novik Kiran Rawls Alexa Rivera Soniya Samuel Luka Sengul Megan Sheen Julia Steiner Amy Tavarez Taylor Towey Anthony Urbano Medina Vlashi

# **Music Notes**

AND ALL THAT JAZZ

## **Spring Semester Music Events**



HCA's 15th Annual HCA Dessert Theatre was a "sweet treat" for all those who attended on March 8-9! These incredible evenings of drama, song, and dessert featured a student-written plot about a down-on-his luck movie director, Gale Demarkus Troy (Gamaliel Perde, 11), determined to sabotage the careers of his former friends, producer Diana Moore (Rachel Bustamante, 11) and actor Zion J. Samuels (Ryan Jones, 11). In the end, assistant Pam Miller (Keri Andersen, 12) saved the day, and the antagonist repented and found redemption in the forgiveness of his friends. Outstanding performances by the 81 cast members, an incredible band, and thousands of desserts were on the menu for these evenings, and the name of the Lord was lifted high by the efforts of all of the students, parents, and staff that were involved. If you missed it, be sure to join us for the fun next year!

#### **Music in the Parks**

Middle School Chorus triumphed at Music in the Parks on May 4. They received a Superior Rating and First Place for Mixed Choir, as well as Best Overall Middle School/Junior High Choir. Aliyah Sanchez (7) won the Best Soloist Award. High School Music also had a tremendous day at Music in the Parks on Saturday, May 18. Prelude and Allegro Handbells brought home Superior Ratings and 1st and 2nd place trophies. Chorale, Servants of the King, Men's Ensemble, and Women's Ensemble all brought home Superiors and First Place trophies. Cecilia Soheily (12) won the Best Overall Soloist Award, and Women's Ensemble was named the Best Overall Choir. Praise God for these students and their desire to glorify God!



ANNE PAYNTER Middle & High School Music Teacher





## **WorldStrides Heritage Music Festival**

Servants of the King traveled to historic Williamsburg, VA this spring to participate in the prestigious WorldStrides Heritage Festival Competition. It was a busy trip, beginning with a workshop with William and Mary choir director, Dr. Jaimee C. Bartlett, on Thursday, April 25. Servants then enjoyed a tour of the William and Mary campus by HCA alumnus Luke Mitchell, and an afternoon at Colonial Williamsburg. On Friday, the festival performances were held at Liberty Live Church in Williamsburg, and Servants of the King swept the competition, despite representing by far the smallest school in attendance. Each competing group (Servants of the King, SOK Men's Ensemble, and SOK Women's Ensemble) won first place and a superior rating in their category, and the mixed and women's groups each won Adjudicator Awards (for scores above a 95). Servants of the King won Best Overall Choir at the competition, and HCA won the Best Overall Choral Program. In addition, individual awards were given to Cecilia Soheily (Maestro Award for outstanding solo), and Mitchell Wang (Ovation Award for determination, inspiration, and service). On Saturday, students spent the day enjoying Busch Gardens and attending the festival awards ceremony, and on Sunday, Servants of the King was privileged to minister to the congregation of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church before boarding the bus to head home. Praise God for a successful trip and opportunities to share the Gospel in song!

# **Academy Athletics**

GO DEFENDERS!

## Winter & Spring 2024 Defender Athletics



TYLER VAN DYK Director of Athletics

#### **Winter Awards**

#### BOYS BASKETBALL

Andrew Hart (12) Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County

Timothy Said (11) Honorable Mention All County

Joel Walker (12) 1st Team All League 2nd Team All County

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Julie Awad (12) Honorable Mention All County

**Baobab DeLorenzo (9)** Honorable Mention All County

#### HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

Joey Betz (11) 1st Team All League Honorable Mention All County

Zacharias Burres (11) Ist Team All League Honorable Mention All County

**Cole Higby (11)** Honorable Mention All League

Amanda Meshraky (12) Honorable Mention All County

Matthew Mitchell (11) 1st Team All League 1st Team All County

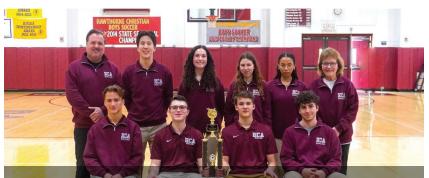
Coaches Chi Chi & Tyler Van Dyk NJIC Patriot Coaches of the Year



Varsity Boys Basketball player, Joel Walker, became the newest member of the HCA Defender 1,000 Point Club. He scored his 1,000<sup>th</sup> point on Tuesday, February 6, 2024.



This season of Varsity Girls Basketball was full of great effort and teamwork. Despite their small group, nothing could keep these ladies from playing the game they love.



Defender Varsity Bowling finished 16-0 as League champions, 2nd in the NJIC Conference, and 3rd in Passaic County. Matthew-Mitchell finished with the Highest Average in the League.

## **Annual Sports Banquet Awards**

NJIC Sportsmanship Award: Andrew Hart & Ava Lamitola PCCA Student-Athletes of the Year: Joel Walker & Christine Williams HCA Defender Athletes of the Year: Joel Walker & Sophia DiGregorio HCA Athletic Booster Club Scholarship: Joel Walker & Sophia DiGregorio



Varsity Boys Baseball coach, Aaron Van Dyk, won his 100<sup>th</sup> Career Game as HCA Varsity Baseball Head Coach on April 1, 2024! Congratulations, Defenders!



Eagles-Defenders Varsity Softball player, Alina Ellis, finished the season leading the NJIC Conference in batting average and finished with zero strike outs for the entire season.



The 2024 Defender Varsity Track & Field team experienced a highly successful season, with several student-athletes earning awards at the league and county levels.

## **Spring Awards**

BOYS BASEBALL

Joey Betz (11) 1st Team All League Honorable Mention All County

Alex Hanna (11) Honorable Mention All League

**Eli Higby (11)** 1st Team All League 2nd Team All County

Joel Walker (12) 1st Team All League 2nd Team All County

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Alina Ellis (11) 1st Team All League Honorable Mention All County

🜻 HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD

Julie Awad (12) Honorable Mention All League

**Bao DeLorenzo (9)** 2nd Team All League Honorable Mention All County

Andrew Hart (12) Honorable Mention All County

Ava Higby (11) Honorable Mention All League

**Gamaliel Perde (11)** Honorable Mention All League 2nd Team All County

Hugh Ryan (11) Honorable Mention All League Honorable Mention All County

**Robert Taylor (11)** Honorable Mention All League

AWARDS

**Joel Walker (12)** NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, 2023-2024

# **Faculty Commencement**

HONORING OUR RETIREES

## **HCA Faculty Retirees**



#### Donna German

KINDERGARTEN AIDE

Time at HCA: 26 Years Role at HCA: Faithful Teacher's Aide for one or both of HCA's Kindergarten classes

Mrs. German has worked alongside Kindergarten teachers for 26 years, always making sure the children are engaged and safe. She has prepared too many papers and projects to count. And what about recess? Every day at lunchtime she can be found watching little ones as they play. She is referee, encourager, and counselor. She is an example of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Col. 3:12). We will remember Mrs. German for her "work produced by faith, her labor prompted by love, and her endurance inspired by hope in Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 1:3). May the Lord bless her as she has blessed so many at HCA.



SARA CINGALE Lower School Library Teacher



#### **Anne Paynter**

MS/HS MUSIC TEACHER

Time at HCA: 16 Years Role at HCA: Middle School and High School Vocal and Academic Music Teacher

For sixteen years, God blessed HCA with Anne Paynter, who faithfully taught, discipled, loved, and prayed for our students. Under her leadership, her vocal groups achieved numerous accolades, which were the result of how Christ worked through her at HCA. Anne always encouraged her students to give their best to God and to give Him the glory. Her focus was always on demonstrating the love of Christ, honing the gifts God had given her students, and pointing everyone toward Jesus. We are profoundly grateful to Anne for her years of dedicated service and are excited to see how God will continue to use her in retirement!



## JOHN PETERSON 4th-12th Grade Instrumental Teacher

## **HCA Administration Retiree**



#### **Marcia Rainey**

LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

**Time at HCA:** 19 Years **Roles at HCA:** Lower School Principal, Upper School Principal, Bible & Science Teacher

What can be said about the whirl of energy that has moved about HCA's campus - Marcia Rainey? As both a teacher and administrator, she has been an example of creativity, commitment, and integrity. As a teacher, Marcia never tired of improving her craft. Her commitment to excellence extended beyond her teaching years to her administrative responsibilities. From students to teachers, we sensed her dedication. Whether by words or example, she prompted us to do better. Her commitment is infectious. Marcia's creativity and commitment result from her desire to honor the Lord. By His grace she lives out the Colossians 3:17 imperative: "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." Although Marcia moves on, her influence remains with every confidence that she will continue to impact others for God's Kingdom.



ARLENE CALO High School English Teacher

# Alumni News

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Jonathan ('09) and Chelsea Barrett welcomed their daughter, Rylie Grace, on February 27, 2024.



Rachel Eelman ('19) married Kolby Bills on July 6, 2024, at the Riverview Barn in Franklin, NJ.



Sara Grant ('16) and Oluwafeyijimii (Jimi) Salako celebrated their wedding on June 10, 2023, at HGC.



Mark ('10) and Elizabeth Horn announced the birth of their daughter, Cecelia Eliana, on January 24, 2024.



Christopher German ('05) and Daina Ommundsen celebrated their marriage on June 29, 2023.



Christine Pelliccio ('19) became Mrs. Yanan Melo on May 18, 2024, in Morristown, NJ.

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#### **THE CHIMES**

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## 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

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