

THE CHIMES

HCA NEWSLETTER • FALL 2020



OUNDED 19

Merry Christmas from HCA!

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

Read HCA's Christmas message on pages 8-9.





Our Mission

Hawthorne Christian Academy is committed to inspire and equip students to *grow* in spiritual maturity, to *achieve* academic excellence, and to impact the world for Christ.



Accreditations

Association of Christian Schools International

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools



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Cover photo by Ellen Pelliccio

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HCA Leadership Team



ODD MITCHELL lead of School





Director of Technology & /irtual Instruction



JEN EELMAN **Director of Guidance**



Director of Admissions & 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**

"We have come to worship Him!"

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I wise men traveled hundreds of miles (at great will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High" (Psalm 9:1-2).

This Thanksgiving, we paused to intentionally come before the Lord to praise Him for His mighty works. We have so much to be grateful for. We thank God for His provision over HCA in allowing us to return to campus for in-seat instruction, for the creation of *HCA Virtual* which is meeting the needs of so many in our HCA family, and for the generous giving of those who financially support God's work through HCA. We are truly blessed!

Now, as we begin Advent, we look forward to Christmas and the greatest Gift of all! I think back to my childhood and remember standing around a wreath with my family, lighting the Advent candles, as I read Matthew 2:1-12, the account of the magi from the east. As I ponder these verses, I'm struck and convicted by Matthew 2:2, which reads, "...we have come to worship Him." The

personal expense) and risked their lives for the sole purpose of worshiping Christ, the newborn King. The magi came, not to get something from Christ, but to give; not only gifts, but to give their honor, praise, and worship.

This Advent season, I pray that, like the wise men, we will not stop at simply thanking God for what He has given us, but that we will also gaze upon Jesus Christ, God incarnate, and worship Him for who He is. I pray that we will be filled with awe as we meditate on His majesty, His unfathomable power, His infinite wisdom, and His perfect love. For "Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise; His greatness no one can fathom" (Psalm 145:3).

This Christmas season, let us lay our gifts and our lives at Jesus' feet, seeking nothing for ourselves, but seeking only to bring Him all the honor, all the praise, and all the worship that He deserves. From your family at HCA, we wish you a very blessed and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

HCA Highlights

CAMPUS FEATURES

Building a Legacy

This year, twenty-two HCA alumni have thirty-one children enrolled in their alma mater. These Legacy Students, children of HCA graduates, carry on the legacy of HCA in the next generation. Our mini-me Legacies range from preschool to grade 12. Do you see the resemblance?



Michael Andersen Class of 1991



Kathryn (Klock) **Andersen** Class of 1991



Erik Andersen Grade 12



Keri Andersen Grade 9



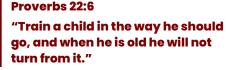
Matthew Bader Class of 1999



Nicole (Senak) Bader Class of 2003



MacKenzie Bader Grade 2





Christopher Cilderman Class of 1995



Sara Cilderman Kindergarten



Chad De Boer Class of 1992



Violet De Boer Kindergarten



Kirk De Boer Class of 2001



Connor De Boer Grade 2



Morgan De Boer Kindergarten



Sadie De Boer Preschool-3



Rachel (Livingston) **DeBlock** Class of 1996



Nicholas DeBlock Grade 10



Michael Eelman Class of 1996



Christopher Eelman Grade 12



Leigh-Ann (Eelman) Gordon Class of 1996



Levi Gordon Grade 3



Angel Grant Class of 2003



Mia Grant Grade 6

"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4



Stephen Halliwell Class of 2004



Grace Halliwell Grade 3



Elijah Halliwell Kindergarten



Shane Higby Class of 1990



Ty Higby Grade 11



Ava Higby Grade 8



Cole Higby Grade 8



Eli Higby Grade 8



Julie (Thoman) LaGrotteria Class of 2003



Emma LaGrotteria Grade 2



Nicole (Critelli) LaGrotteria Class of 2003



Madeleine LaGrotteria Grade 1



Jacob Minnema Class of 2004



Caleb Minnema Preschool-4



Ellie Minnema Preschool-4



Jaylene (Jardinico) Monteiro Class of 1994



Mia Monteiro Grade 2



Jason Romine Class of 2000



Grade 5

Jane Romine



Class of 1995

Kevin Standford



Jennifer (McCausland) Standford Class of 1995



Olivia Standford Grade 4



Sienna Standford Grade 2



Emily (Ciotti) Stanley Class of 2006



Ryan Stanley Grade 10



Gideon Stanley Preschool-4



Lydia Stanley Preschool-3



Drew Van Duren Class of 1993



Jordan Van Duren Grade 10

Annual Golf Classic

22ND FALL FUNDRAISER

A Tee-rific Turnout

"There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!" (Anonymous). What an appropriate quote for HCA's 2020 Golf Classic.

A little rain fell, a little wind blew, and a few golfers bowed out; but all in all, it was another successful fundraising event! By God's grace, current guidelines allowed HCA to bring golfers together for a time of much-needed fellowship and fun at our twenty-second Annual Golf Classic.

On the windy morning of October 12, 100 Golfers masked-up (compliments of Kayal Orthopaedic) and tee'd off at the beautiful Ballyowen Golf Course. What a joyous occasion

to see an event come to fruition as scheduled, with no cancellations, no postponements, and no disappointments.

We are so grateful to Ken Koeller and The Betty Sue Koeller Tuition Aid Endowment, Kayal Orthopaedic Center, and Ramsey Auto Group for hosting this exciting event and for demonstrating their continued support of Christian Education and God's work at HCA. And to you, the sponsors and golfers who participated and helped us raise over \$77,000, we want to express our heartfelt thanks.

If you did not join us this year, mark your calendars for Columbus Day 2021, and plan to spend the day golfing!





2020 Golf Awards

LOWEST GROSS SCORE

1st Place (60)

Team Berry (Vinny Berry, Mike Wilkerson, Josh Abary)

2nd Place (62)

Van Dyk Health Care (Brian Fazio, Jeff Fargel, Scott Perry, Anthony Zarro)

MOST HONEST GOLFERS Bekah Gaehring & Bill Galloway

PUTTING CONTEST

1st Place (0 Inches)

Eric Johannesen, Johannesen Health

2nd Place (17 Inches)

Brian Fazio, Van Dyk Health Care

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

Eric Johannesen, Johannesen Health

STRAIGHTEST DRIVE

Ted Louie, Team Koeller

CHIPPING CONTEST

1st Place (29 Inches)

Ian Samuel, Team Shilpa Samuel, PC

2nd Place (30 Inches)

Harry Aufiero, Elite Contract Mgmt.

LONGEST DRIVE (MEN)

Tom Cassels, Emerald Foods

LONGEST DRIVE (WOMEN)

Mary McCaw, Team Lathrop/Miller

"Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening - and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented." - Arnold Palmer







Thank You, Sponsors!

HOST SPONSORS

Betty Sue Koeller Tuition Aid Endowment Kayal Orthopaedic Center, P.C. Ramsey Auto Group

SPECIAL THANKS

Bavagnoli & Bavagnoli, LLC Brother's Carpet & Flooring, Inc. Chick-fil-A of Teterboro Landing Genesys Research Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hart **LAN Associates** New Life Driving School PRINTSOLUTIONS, Inc. Regency Wealth Management Teschon, Riccobene, & Siss, P.A. Tower Isle's Frozen Foods Van Dyk Health Care

GOLD SPONSORS

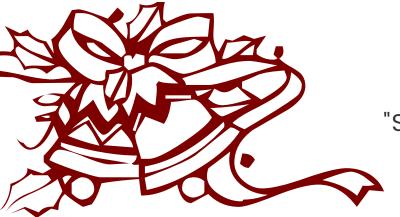
Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Berry **Emerald Food Service** Mr. & Mrs. William Gerhardt Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hart Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jefferson Koenig & Associates, LLC Pelaschier/DelSanto Family Law Offices of Shilpa Samuel, PC

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FACTS Tuition Management The Hubbard & Tsai Families Johannesen Health Mr. & Mrs. Todd Mitchell

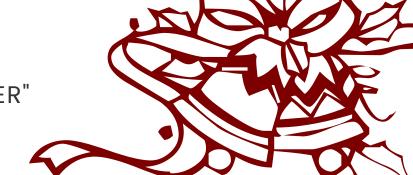
BRONZE SPONSOR

Mr. George Kuryllo



Merry Christmas from HCA!

"SUPPORT OUR YEAR-END ENDEAVOR... SERVING JESUS ALL TOGETHER"



"When choosing a school for our children, HCA was our first choice. HCA is committed to excellence in their teaching and their programs, but more importantly, to excellence in the way they saturate every aspect of school life with the Word of God. In just these first few years of being HCA parents, we can truly see how the love of Christ integrated in school has impacted our children's love of the Lord and of learning. We are excited to see them grow at HCA, and we are so happy to be a part of the HCA family."

- Kirk De Boer (Class of 2001)

"Our desire was to send our children to a school that would provide an extension of the values taught at home. HCA does not see our girls just as students, but rather as unique creations who were designed to honor God with their lives. For seven hours a day, our daughters are being poured into by teachers who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and who see their mission as one that equips their students to grow academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually."

- Kevin Standford (Class of 1995)



"As graduates of Hawthorne Christian Academy, we chose to send our children to HCA because we wanted them to be educated in an environment rooted in a Biblical worldview alongside other students raised with similar values."

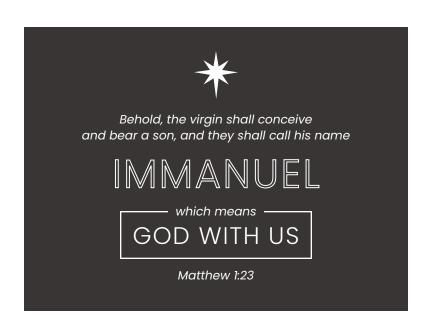
- Mike Andersen (Class of 1991)

"As a graduate of Hawthorne Christian Academy, I chose to continue the legacy because of HCA's Christ-centered education and compassionate teachers that care for their students as unique individuals."

- Shane Higby (Class of 1990)

"My husband and I chose to continue the Hawthorne Christian Academy legacy and send our children to HCA because of the Biblical foundation in all the teaching (not just in Bible class), and the evident dedication the teachers have to growing the students academically, as well as in the Lord."

- Emily (Ciotti) Stanley (Class of 2006)



Celebrating 40 Years of God's Faithfulness

In 1981, Hawthorne Christian Academy was founded as a ministry of Hawthorne Gospel Church. It was a vision laid upon the hearts of the leaders of HGC to start a school with a mission to lead young people to Christ, while providing a strong academic program taught through a Biblical worldview.

This year, HCA is blessed with 31 legacy students (children of HCA graduates). These alumni parents often express appreciation for our godly teachers and their desire for students to know Christ, and for the Christ-centered education HCA provides. It is clear that, 40 years later, the mission of HCA's founders rings true!

Throughout the Bible, we see God use epochs of 40 years to grow His people and to position them to follow His will. Hawthorne Christian Academy recognizes 2021 as a year to celebrate God's immeasurable faithfulness for the past 40 years and to look forward to what He has planned for HCA in the years to come!

Andso,aswelookaheadtothenext40yearsandbeyond, we invite you to become a part of the HCA Legacy! Whether a faithful supporter or first-time giver, we pray God will stir your heart to support His work in the lives of HCA students for generations to come. Please use the included envelope or visit www.hca.org to give today!



Student Spotlight

ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



We're Back!

Screening and social distancing and sanitizing, oh my! In-person schooling looks a little different this year, but we couldn't be more thankful to be back on campus, sharing the love of Jesus with our students and community. *Love Like Jesus*!

2020 NHS Inductees

Nineteen HCA juniors and seniors were inducted into HCA's chapter of National Honor Society this year. NHS is the nation's oldest and most prestigious student recognition program, founded on four principles which HCA also values: scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Congratulations to these diligent and hardworking students on this commendable accomplishment!

New Inductees:

Rhiannon Atekpe Mia Chandy Nelly Cyrin Chris Eelman Luke Hart Kylie Johannesen Cana Koppenal Kayla Oh Charity Walker Grace Yang

Returning Members:

Erik Andersen
Gabriela Mallack
Jaiden Fuller
Brian Sanchez
Grace Guingon
Andrew Egedy
Colleen Moran
lanna Suarez
Rachel How

Quarter 1 Highlights

HCA Administers SAT On-Premises

For the first time in history, Hawthorne Christian Academy administered SATs on campus for HCA juniors and seniors. Twenty-two of our upperclassmen sat for the SAT on either one or both of the two available testing days. In the midst of a difficult year, our students were so thankful to be able to take this important step in their college and career process on their own campus (and so were we)!

HCA 5th Grader Named NJ State Winner

HCA Virtual 5th grader, Megan Sheen, was named a New Jersey State Winner for the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Competition. In this age of keyboard technology, handwriting is not a lost art, and Megan is quite the artist!



Spiritual Emphasis Days

What does it really mean to Love Like Jesus? HCA middle and high school students tackled this question during their Spiritual Emphasis days this fall. Guest pastors, Steve Hawthorne (Emergence Church) and David Noel (Grace Redeemer Church) joined us on the HCA campus to challenge our students to delve deeper into this year's school theme. As we seek to love one another as Jesus loves us, nothing could be more important than to set time aside to grow in our relationships with the Lord and to strive to know Him better.

Jog-A-Thon 2020

HCA ON THE RUN







Run, Defenders, Run!

Some things never change... Or so we thought. For time in memoriam, the HCA Jog-A-Thon has been held in the spring of each school year, promising students an exciting day of fun, food, and fundraising. Year-after-year, students in Preschool through grade 12 come together to run in support of their school, building camaraderie and school spirit. It is a day we would not want to miss.

Though the events of 2020 caused us to cancel our annual Jog-A-Thon in the spring, HCA's Parent Teacher Fellowship was determined to make this event happen before 2020 came to a close. On October 9, 2020, they did just that.

In conjunction with HCA faculty and staff, members of the PTF put their heads together to map out running tracks that

allowed students to abide by social distancing guidelines. Though our Jog-A-Thon looked a little different this year, the event provided the perfect opportunity to bring back a sense of normalcy and community to life at HCA. Our 2020 Jog-A-Thon was undoubtedly a success!

The HCA Jog-A-Thon was simply not the same without our friends and family cheering on the sidelines and enjoying the traditional BBQ lunch with us. But until we can return to "Jog-A-Thon as usual," a Chick-fil-A lunch will do the trick!

HCA and the PTF are extremely grateful to all who sponsored students to run. Sponsorships and donations totaled more than \$22,000, and although it was less than most (normal) years, HCA is truly blessed and thankful.

Academy Athletics

GO DEFENDERS!



High School Cross Country

What a season it was for HCA's Cross Country team! Eight student-athletes came together to form one of XC's largest ensembles. Everyday, the team arrived at their practices and meets ready to run and to give their all, resulting in one of the best XC seasons in HCA history. Congratulations to HCA XC on their many individual and team accomplishments!

Season Theme: There Is Something Positive In Every Day Team Captains: Micaela Warren (12) & Grace Yang (11) Season Accomplishment: HCA's XC team earned the 2nd place Silver Medal at the League Championship at Garrett Mountain on October 21 (scoring as a team for the first time).



Varsity Girls Soccer

HCA's Lady Defenders enjoyed a season of celebration, thankful to come together as a team under the leadership of Coach Melissa Hawthorne. Though this season presented a variety of unique challenges, the team experienced noteworthy victories as well. Senior Cristina D'Amato ended her high school soccer career with a hard-earned hat trick, and Maia Kriesel earned Rookie of the Year status.

Final Season Record: 4-8-1

Season Theme: Play Every Game Like It's Your Last

Team Captain: Cristina D'Amato (12)

Leading Scorer: Cristina D'Amato (12): 9 Goals



Middle School Soccer

HCA was one of only three schools in Northern New Jersey to hold a Middle School fall sports season. While the number of games and practices was certainly limited this year, both our boys and girls teams displayed sportsmanship, skill, and perseverance. Their strong work ethic and determination bred success, as overall improvement was evident among both the middle school Defender soccer teams. Way to go!

Final Season Record: Boys: 3-3, Girls: 0-4 **Season Theme:** Persevere Through 2020's Challenges

Team Captains: Boys: Landon Hawthorne (8) & Matt Mitchell (8) Girls: Ava Higby (8), Rachel Bustamante (8), Sophia Guingon (7)

"All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step." I Corinthians 9:25-26



Varsity Boys Soccer

With the uncertainty surrounding sports seasons at large this year, HCA's varsity boys soccer team was thrilled to return to the Defender Field once more. The very fact that our Athletic Program was able to hold its fall season as scheduled was a win, in and of itself. Furthermore, the Defenders performed at the top of their game, qualifying for the NJSIAA State Tournament for the tenth consecutive season. Despite a postponed season start, a new and ever-changing schedule, and the many health-related guidelines and restrictions, our Defenders would not be stopped, embodying a past season theme, "Earned, Not Given."

In line with this year's season theme of, "Tomorrow Is Not Promised Today," Coach Tyler Van Dyk encouraged his team to "Approach each team meeting, practice, and game as if it could be your last, be grateful for the opportunity to play, and take nothing for granted. Play with passion for Him!"

Final Season Record: 8-5-1

Season Theme: Tomorrow Is Not Promised Today

Team Captains: Christopher Eelman (12), Andrew Egedy (12),

Luke Hart (12), and Mark Schur (12)

Leading Scorers: Mark Schur (12): 10 Goals and 5 Assists

Aaron Feliciano (12): 10 Goals and 2 Assists Brock Burres (10): 8 Goals and 2 Assists

Fall Sports Awards

⊕ BOYS SOCCER

Christopher Eelman (12)

2nd Team All League

Andrew Egedy (12)

1st Team All League

3.

Aaron Feliciano (12)

1st Team All League

Luke Hart (12)

2nd Team All League

Mark Schur (12)

1st Team All League

⊕ GIRLS SOCCER

Cristina D'Amato (12)

1st Team All League

Charity Walker (11)

2nd Team All League

HS CROSS COUNTRY

Abigail Camacho (10)

2nd Team All League

Amanda Meshraky (9)

Honorable Mention All League

Kathryn Rappaport (9)

2nd Team All League

Anna Rypkema (9)

1st Team All League

Micaela Warren (12)

2nd Team All League

Grace Yang (11)

2nd Team All League

na ream An League

Faculty Features

WFI COME ABOARD!



Mr. Paul Steiner

SCIENCE TEACHER

Education:

PBACC in Special Education **CEAS** in Earth Sciences **BA** in Environmental Studies

Mr. Paul Steiner joins the HCA faculty as the newest addition to our Science Department! Mr. Steiner is a veteran who was born and raised in Northern New Jersey. He has been a middle school science teacher for over twelve years, predominantly in Fair Lawn public schools. As a member of HGC for over fifteen years, Mr. Steiner now follows God's calling to Christian ministry at HCA.

Mr. Steiner is passionate about Jesus and about science. At HCA, he teaches science classes to grades 5-7 and Personal Finance to grades 11-12. Furthermore, he is the HCA Virtual course facilitator for grades 6-8 science and history. Mr. Steiner and his wife, Dr. Lisa Steiner, have two children who attend the Academy.



Administrative Updates

TODD MITCHELL

HCA's New Head of School, Principal (Grades 6-12)

As the start of the 2020-2021 school year drew near, HCA announced the restructuring of its administration. Mr. Todd Mitchell has been appointed the new HCA Head of School. In this capacity, he continues to serve as Principal of grades 6-12 and has expanded his role as he guides HCA in the areas of spiritual development, instructional leadership, student and community experience, and strategic vision.

Over his time at HCA, Mr. Mitchell's love for the Lord, love for our students, and passion for Christian Education have been evident to the HCA community. We are confident that he possesses the leadership ability, God-given strength, and humble spirit to effectively serve the Lord, the faculty, the students, and families of HCA in this new role.

Alumni News

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

***** To Have and To Hold



Erika Borst ('12) married William Bavagnoli at the Crossed Keys Estate in Andover, NJ on August 23, 2020. Erika and William met through a mutual friend at Bethany Church. The couple now makes their first home together in Wyckoff, NJ.



Christian Rubio ('14) and his lovely bride, Kristina Winters, celebrated their marriage on October 9, 2020, at the Sussex County Fairgrounds Conservatory in Frankford, NJ. The couple met while serving on the music team at Emergence Church.



Gabriela Romano ('15) became Mrs. Juba McDaniel on October 9, 2020, at Lakefield Weddings in Lancaster, PA. Gabby and Juba met at a summer Bible camp as sophomores in high school, and the rest was history! Congratulations to the McDaniels!

HCA Security Team



Mr. Bert Nance

HCA SECURITY

Retired Sheriff's Officer HCA Dad (P'21)

(973) 423-3331 x300

HCA is excited to welcome Mr. Bert Nance to our Security Team! A retired Passaic County Sheriff's Officer, Mr. Nance joins the HCA Family with a degree in Christian Psychology and Counseling from Pillar College. He is also an FBI-trained hostage negotiator, Church Elder, and dad of HCA Senior, Leah Nance. Mr. Nance joins a robust team that diligently works to ensure our students can learn in safety!



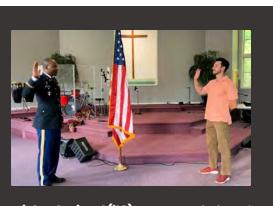
Mr. Robert Jeffress

HCA SECURITY

Retired Police Commander Self-Defense Trainer

(973) 423-3331 x300

Mr. Robert Jeffress comes to HCA as a retired Police Commander with over 21 years of law enforcement experience. As a Commander, he was in charge of training and development, and has competed in national and international Mounted Police competitions. With a background in martial arts, he also trained new police officers in self defense throughout his career.



Michael Kriesel ('16) was commissioned into the U.S. Army on October 8, 2020. Michael is currently completing his first year of medical school at Touro College. Upon graduation, he will assume his role as a second lieutenant military doctor. Congratulations to 2nd Lt. Michael and the entire Kriesel family!



Tiffany (De Meo) Forrest ('04) and her husband, Steve, welcomed their first son, Noah Alexander, on September 25, 2020. Noah weighed in at 9 pounds, 14 ounces at birth, and arrived in time to share his birthday with his dad, Steve.



Nicholas ('12) and Zoe (Mandaro) Aust ('09) announced the birth of their son, Axl Antonio Aust, on November 4, 2020 (7 pounds, 10 ounces). Axl was welcomed to his family by his parents and their French Bulldog, Pierre.



Lindsay (McDermott) Clowers ('13) and her hubsand, Shawn, welcomed their firstborn son, Owen Myles, into the world on July 21, 2020, weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces. The Clowers are currently residing in Mahwah, NJ.



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THE CHIMES

2000 State Route 208 Hawthorne, NJ 07506

Hawthorne Christian Academy

is committed to inspire and equip our students...







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