

# THE Communicator

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## Casting Our Vision: Write the Vision. Make it Plain.

A Note from Lead Administrator, Mrs. Jackie Mathews



*For still the vision  
awaits its appointed  
time; it hastens to the  
end—it will not lie.  
Habakkuk 2:3*

I am continually in awe when I pause to think of how God placed the vision for Chapel Hill Christian School in the heart of one man all the way back in the early 1960s. And that vision is still alive and well today. I am sure when God placed the vision for a Christian school in the heart of Pastor Robert Turner, He already knew what that would look like today, who would be involved in the ministry, and who would support the vision. What a blessing to know that God, in His providence, would include you and me in something He holds so dear to His heart – the spiritual and intellectual growth and wellbeing of His children.

On October 6, we hosted our first annual “Casting Our Vision” fundraising dinner. This was a slight shift from the traditional Annual Fund Dinner held in previous years.

The evening allowed us a chance to share with our donors what God has been doing at Chapel Hill, and gave them the opportunity to partner with us in ways that will change lives for years to come.

While the overarching theme for the evening was “Casting Our Vision,” it was evident that the foundational vision from the 1960s is still the foundation. We continue to provide excellence in academics, and an environment where our students can pursue authentic relationship with Christ, and find God’s path for their future.

One highlight of the evening was sharing our newly adopted Strategic Plan. The plan was developed over the last year through a collaborative effort between the CHCS Board of Education and Administration, with input from a host of constituent focus groups. We wanted to share with our donors and supporters the areas we will be focusing our attention on over the next five years. The five key areas are:

1. Spiritual Life
2. Academic Excellence
3. Advancement/Development
4. Culture
5. Early Education

Effectively addressing these areas is critically important to successfully carrying out the vision and mission of Chapel Hill



Christian School. And we believe God has been involved in the planning every step of the way.

The evening was also graced with video testimonials of how the Spirit of Christ has always been present in the hallways and classrooms, how the teachers have provided a nurturing environment of support, and parents have been drawn closer to Christ through the witness and impact of CHCS faculty and staff.

Finally, we wrapped up the evening by sharing a few areas where we are seeing financial need beyond the norm.

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**“What a blessing to know that God, in His providence, would include you and me in something He holds so dear to His heart – the spiritual and intellectual growth and wellbeing of His children.”**

## NORTH CAMPUS NOTES



### From Mrs. Cathy Shafer, North Campus Principal

Planting seeds is a very scriptural principle and one that is easy for us to relate to and understand. Paul emphasizes this in 1

Corinthians 3:6-7, *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."*

As parents and teachers, we do not always observe immediate "fruit" in our children from the efforts instructing them to live righteous lives. What an encouragement when someone notices our child being kind, helpful, or obedient in significant ways. When I taught kindergarten, I would encourage parents to "catch their child being kind," and send in a note so it could be read to the class.

Our positive words can encourage godly behavior, just as much as times of needed discipline. At CHCS, we often collaborate about what specific intervention might help a child move from poor to good choices. This process can happen over and over again – as we all know.

I only have to look as far as myself to see God's patience and guidance as I have stumbled and sinned in my own life. We are merely reflections of God's grace and long-suffering as we continue to pray for wisdom, receive advice from others, and diligently work at this tough job of parenting and teaching.

Classroom teachers have one school year to invest in a child's life. There may be many seeds planted, but little fruit during that time. Paul's message encourages us

to continue in the task of instructing and guiding our students towards becoming a believer in Jesus Christ, and one who demonstrates a life committed to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is such a privilege to work alongside our families in this endeavor. The insights provided by parents as we discuss a child's growth is invaluable. We will continue on the path of redemptive discipline with grace as we pray for God's continued work in each of our students' lives.

**"We are encouraged to continue in the task of instructing and guiding our students towards becoming a believer in Jesus Christ, and one who demonstrates a life committed to the guidance of the Holy Spirit."**

## SOUTH CAMPUS GREETINGS



### From Mrs. Vicki Keys, South Campus Principal

We often emphasize the importance of teaching with a Biblical World-view. It is the backbone of Christian Education, and we know that is why many families choose CHCS. What we do not say as often, but is of equal importance, is that we believe it is important for our administration and faculty to also be continually infused with the Word of God. This is what transforms hearts and minds!

The theme that we prayerfully choose each school year for our student body becomes an integral part of our school year. The students hear it, see it, and are immersed in it. Our prayer is that it transforms their hearts to be more like Jesus! The thing is, while we are teaching and modeling this to our students, it impacts our lives as administrators, faculty, and staff as well.

This year we are living and breathing, "The Holy Spirit is Our Helper!" One morning each week, the faculty gathers to study *The Power of the Holy Spirit's Names* by Tony Evans. The Holy Spirit is not an It, but Someone to know. From the time He enters our lives, we are never alone! As we are studying, we are encouraged to see how the Holy Spirit has been and continues to have an active role in our lives.

Our Professional Development this year is, *Your Christian School: A Culture of Grace?* By Paul Tripp. In its description, it states, "Christian education is war, but not war between teacher and student. All these struggles are the fruit of a deeper struggle – the war for the heart. God loves these children and wants to rule their heart, so He placed them in an environment where they can be shown the love of their Redeemer. Teachers, administrators, and staff are the tools for this love."

As administrators and faculty, we desire for the Lord to continue to grow us in Him, so that we can be the tools that help our students have transformed hearts! We are thankful for the power and the help of the Holy Spirit to do this in our own lives, and in the lives of our students!



**"We are encouraged to see how the Holy Spirit has been and continues to have an active role in our lives."**

# Meet our New Faculty and Staff



**Emily Bauman**  
Counselor  
South Campus

The school setting is new for me and has been quite a change! I spent the past nine years

working in a children's hospital, providing psychosocial support to children and families during their medical experience. I have a soft spot in my heart for children with special needs and children from hard places. I am thankful to have been able to travel to Mexico and Africa to work with children there, and love seeing how God can make beauty from ashes. Two years ago I became a foster parent and have been trying to keep up with my now three-year-old foster son ever since! In my spare time I love being outside, reading, and spending time with friends. I am also a huge traveler, and while I haven't been everywhere yet, it's on my list! I'm excited to see how God works this year as I counsel with our students.



**DeAnna Carozzi**  
PreSchool  
North Campus

Working at CHCS North campus is a great honor. I am excited to embark on this journey and look

forward to great things. My relationship with Jesus Christ is the foundation of my life, which drives me every day. Growing up in a Christian home, my parents taught me Christ's love is shown through actions more than words, which has been my goal as a teacher. I have over 20 years of experience in early education and worked in the public school system in Special Ed. For five years, I was a Children's Ministry Director. I am married and blessed with five children, my tribe, two girls and three boys. Family days are my favorite, when we cook together and play games. My husband and I enjoy traveling. We attend East Market Church.



**Shanootria Chaffin**  
5th Grade  
North Campus

Becoming a teacher was not something I had thought of at all in my

beginning college years. After considering a career in pharmacy, I quickly realized that instead I wanted to be a wife and full-time mother. The dream came true when I married my husband of 28 years. We have been blessed with four children, whom I was fortunate to stay home with and care for for over 16 years. Once my kids were in school, I substitute taught and enjoyed the atmosphere. I asked God about my next step in life and He led me back to school to complete my degree in education. It was not an easy feat to raise a family, attend school, and work full-time, and was only by God's hand that I was able to graduate with a Master's Degree in Education. The journey so far has led me to influence kids no matter where I am. I am truly blessed to be at Chapel Hill where I see God represented in many things.



**Becky Kear**  
Art Teacher  
North Campus

I am the new art teacher this year, but technically I'm in my second year at CHCS. I taught here in

2019-2020 and realized before the beginning of the following year that my kidneys were failing. Much to my sadness I had to step down. I remember feeling so frustrated because I had finally found the job I loved and felt called to do. In September of 2022, by God's grace, I received a kidney transplant from my niece. She is my superhero, obviously. Now, God has offered me the same position again, and I couldn't be happier about it, and healthier too!

I accepted Christ when I was just about to turn five, which means I've been a Christian for a LONG time. I have attended Grace Church in Bath my whole life. My husband and I met there and served there with our whole family. I can't wait to see everything God will do this year and hopefully many more to come at CHCS!



**Emalina (Emily) Martinez**  
Accounting Associate  
North and South  
Campuses

It's nice to be a part of such a wonderful

community at Chapel Hill Christian School! I look forward to many years working here as the Accounting Associate in the Business Office. I received my Accounting degree with a minor in Communications from Kent State University in 2017, and got married in 2023. My husband and I enjoy playing video games, hiking together, and visiting zoos and aquariums in our spare time. We also love our Chihuahua (his name is Spot) and hope to grow our Chihuahua family in the future. We both accepted Christ at an early age and always look for opportunities to serve the Lord at our church, Faith Bible Fellowship in Tallmadge where we currently serve as part of the worship team and fellowship committee.



**Caryn McCallum**  
6th Grade Teacher  
North Campus

I am so thankful to be a part of CHCS, after ten years in public education. I was called to

teach while on a mission trip to Mexico. I am excited to help my students grow academically and in their relationships with Jesus. My favorite part of the day is praying with my students.

I grew up in a Christian home on a dairy farm in Pennsylvania. This past summer, I married a wonderful Christian man, who I met at church camp. We have a beautiful Golden Retriever. I enjoy baking, paddleboarding, reading, and exploring our state parks. I attend Riverwood Chapel, and bake at the Peniel Holiness Camp each summer. My favorite Bible verse is Joshua 1:9: *"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*



**Kyle McLean:**  
Physical Education  
and Security  
South Campus

I am excited to get my Physical Education career started here at

CHCS. This past year, I graduated from Kent State University with a degree in Physical Education and Health.

*Continued on page 4*



## New Faculty and Staff

*Continued from page 3*

I am also the former JV Baseball head coach at Springfield High School. I love teaching kids the importance of physical activity and plan to implement all I have learned from the past four years into great lessons where the students can enjoy Physical Education while also learning about Christ.

I am creative when it comes to lesson planning, and I want to continue to bring different ideas into the classroom which will allow all my students to feel safe while performing the task at hand. When I am not at CHCS, I love spending my time with my family at home. My wife and I have been married for six years and have two beautiful daughters, Ellie and Nova. We have attended church since we were both five years old and plan on raising our family the same way our parents did.



**Charissa Waardenburg**  
2nd Grade Teacher  
North Campus

I am thrilled and grateful for the opportunity to teach here at Chapel Hill Christian School! The

ability to teach my students about the Bible, pray with them, and teach them biblical principles is a true joy and honor. I graduated from Kent State University in May after student teaching in Akron. I learned so much through the education and experience Kent State provided, and I am continuing to learn more everyday! I love writing and reading, and hope to instill that in my students too.



**Mackenzie Woodrum**  
1st Grade Teacher  
South Campus

I am excited to be working with your students at Chapel Hill Christian School. Last

year was my first year here as a permanent substitute for two different teachers as they went on maternity leave. I am thrilled to now have my own classroom. I received Christ and have been going to church from a young age. I have learned so much and continue to learn from God's Word. I am so excited to be a part of the Chapel Hill family.

## Casting Our Vision

*Continued from page 1*

### These areas are Opportunities for Excellence:

- Bible-Based Curriculum
- Remodel of Bathrooms at North Campus
- Playground Upgrades
- Increasing Teacher Pay

If you were unable to attend the event and would like to support the vision by making a financial contribution, your support would be greatly appreciated. You can donate in one of the following ways:

- Go to our website at [chapelhillchristianschool.org](http://chapelhillchristianschool.org), click the "Donate" button, and select "Vision Casting."
- Scan the QR code at right to access the donation page.
- Mail a check in to the CHCS Business Office (Note "Vision Casting" on the memo line.) at: 1639 Killian Road, Akron, OH 44312



Your prayers and financial support will go a long way in impacting lives for God's kingdom. Thank you for supporting the vision and partnering with Chapel Hill Christian School.

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2028

Below are five key areas Chapel Hill Christian School will focus on over the next five years. We will center our initiatives and metrics around continued growth as a spiritually and academically rich and fiscally responsible institution.



1

### Spiritual Development

Maintain "Christ at the Center" with a biblical worldview. Actively monitor the spiritual state of our students, staff, board and missions outreach.



2

### Academic Excellence

Drive Academic Excellence in the classroom and in extra-curricular activities that meet the needs of the student body to excel to their potential.



3

### Advancement/Development

Create strategic marketing plans to increase the visibility and enhance the brand/image of the school with internal and external communications.



4

### Culture

Cultivate a culture that presents CHCS as a preferred Christian education destination for faculty, staff, students and parents.



5

### Early Education

Become recognized as the premier choice for quality Early Education in the greater Akron area within our existing locations and through expansion.



## OHIO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

**You have the potential to give an Ohio student a life-giving opportunity to attend a high-quality Christian school that otherwise might be unaffordable to his or her family at no cost to yourself.**

## Scholarship Granting Organization Makes a Difference for Families

The state of Ohio's Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) tax credit authorizes donors who contribute to K-12 student scholarships through a certified SGO to receive a dollar-for-dollar reduction in their state taxes up to \$750 per individual taxpayer. Your gift to the **Ohio Christian Education Network SGO (OCEN SGO)** can go directly to a scholarship for a student attending Chapel Hill Christian School (or any participating school).

For more information and answers to questions please scan this QR code, go to <https://ohiocen.org/ocen-sgo/>, or contact the CHCS Business Office at 330-896-0852.



### 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Grandparents Day, North Campus**  
Preschool-Grade 2 – November 13  
Grades 3-6 – November 20

**Grandparents Day, South Campus**  
Preschool-Grade 1 – November 10  
2nd Grades 2-6 November 17

**Thanksgiving Break**  
November 22-24

**Giving Tuesday**  
November 28

**Christmas Break**  
December 18 – January 2

**No School – Records Day**  
January 12

**No School – MLK Day**  
January 15

**No School**  
**Professional Development Day**  
February 16

**No School – President's Day**  
February 19

**No School – Spring Break**  
March 23-April 1

**Spring Arts Festival, South Campus**  
May 3

**Spring Arts Festival, North Campus**  
May 10

**Last Day for Students**  
May 23

**CHCS Charity Golf Outing**  
June 24

## DID YOU KNOW?

### CHCS Grandparents Days are coming soon!

We would like to honor all of our students' grandparents on Grandparents Day! Grandparents will join us for Chapel and then have a chance to visit their grandchild's classroom. Each campus will celebrate with specific grade levels on different dates. In order to accommodate you, please pay special attention to the scheduled date set aside for your grandchild's grade level.



#### North Campus:

- Preschool – Grade 2: Monday, November 13
- Grades 3-6: Monday, November 20

#### South Campus:

- Preschool – Grade 1: Friday, November 10
- Grades 2-6: Friday, November 17



### Giving Tuesday is on November 28th.

Throughout the month of November you can give a gift of any amount to Chapel Hill Christian School. Simply go to our website at [chapelhillchristianschool.org](http://chapelhillchristianschool.org) and click the "Donate" button, then select "Giving Tuesday 2023." Your gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated, and will help keep quality Christian education within reach for all of our families. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

### The Communicator is now available in digital format!

If you would prefer to receive future copies of *The Communicator* in digital format to your email, rather than a print copy through the U.S. Postal Service, please let us know. Please email your request to: [ccunningham@chapelhillchristianschool.org](mailto:ccunningham@chapelhillchristianschool.org). Please include: your name, email address, and the postal address you would like to have removed from *The Communicator* mailing list.



# FAMILY MATTERS

## The Holy Spirit is Our Helper: Lies vs. Truth – Ingrid Monteith, North Counselor



*"Behold, I have a friend,  
the Spirit breathing  
holy fire within, my  
ever-present help,  
speaking truth when I  
can't find it."*

That is my favorite line from my favorite worship song! I love to think of the Holy Spirit as my friend, my ever-present help, speaking TRUTH to me as I wrestle in my mind with lies... struggling to land in a place of truth. I call this the battle of LIES vs. TRUTH.

Lies are inaccurate, false, destructive beliefs that take root in our thoughts, consequently affecting the way we perceive ourselves, our relationship with God and others, and decisions we make. Often lies get their start when we are young, and by the time we are adults, we don't even know they are there!

Lies go something like this:

**LIE #1:** I must be doing something wrong because God doesn't seem to answer my prayers.

**LIE #2:** My worth as a person depends on whether or not other people notice and compliment me.

**LIE #3:** My depression and anxiety will get better when I have a new job, finish this project, go on a vacation, etc.

Lies create what I call "faulty operating systems" in our brains, making it difficult for us to grow personally and in our relationships. Much of how we "do life" gets filtered through these lies or flawed messages. If we are operating with faulty thinking, we set ourselves up for unhealthy habits and unnecessary struggles.

Five steps that I have found helpful in the battle of lies vs. truth are:

1. Catch the lie
2. Pray
3. Ask for help
4. Replace your lie with truth
5. Reprogram your brain

The first step is recognizing or "catching" the lie. If you don't know a lie exists, you won't be able to replace it with truth. I find it extremely helpful to sit down with paper and pencil and write out the lie in what I call "sentence form." Once you identify the lie, you will be amazed at how easily it tries to sneak into your everyday thinking. Like when you learn a new word and then you hear that word everywhere!

Steps two, three, and four go together. The process of replacing lies with truth is difficult; we cannot do it alone, especially if we've believed a lie for a long time. Discovering "truth statements" requires prayer and working together with the Holy Spirit; remember the song lyrics...the Holy Spirit helps us see truth when we can't find it. We also have the Bible as the ultimate source of Truth and we can look there as we begin to confront our lies and replace them with truth. It might be wise to ask someone who knows you well, or perhaps a counselor, to help you find the "actual wording" of your truth statements.

Truth statements for the lies listed above might look like:

**TRUTH #1:** God doesn't answer my prayers based on how well I do here on earth; He answers prayers according to His perfect will for my life. Instead of focusing on what God's not doing, I can look for the ways God is with me every day.

**TRUTH #2:** Relying on the compliments of others for validation is exhausting. I'm okay simply because God made me exactly the way He wants me to be. God loves me with an unconditional love that is not based on my performance.

**TRUTH #3:** A new job, completing a project, going on a vacation, etc. provide only temporary relief from emotional pain. I can be courageous, face my depression and anxiety, and learn healthy coping skills that can be used for the rest of my life.

JESUS  
ANSWERED,  
"I AM THE WAY  
AND THE TRUTH  
AND THE LIFE."  
JOHN 14:6

The last step, reprogramming, requires a lot of diligence and patience. It's what Paul refers to in Romans 12:2 – we are to transform ourselves by the renewing of our mind. Once you have your new truth statements, I suggest writing them on note cards and putting them in several places where you will see them. Your brain will want to go back to its old ways of faulty thinking so it's helpful to have your new truth statements visible. Furthermore, be reassured that if you struggle with believing your new truth statements are actually true, it's okay! It's like learning a new language. It takes time to internalize and live according to your new truthful "operating systems." Try reading your truth statements out loud several times a day! This will help them become more real to you.

Transforming our lies into truth is hard work. That's why I call it a battle! The good news is that truth is always more powerful than lies. With the Holy Spirit as our helper, we can surrender our lies and embrace the freedom and hope that come with pursuing truth.

**"I love to think of the Holy Spirit as my friend, my ever-present help, speaking TRUTH to me as I wrestle in my mind with lies... struggling to land in a place of truth."**



# CONNECTING HEARTS UPDATE

## Student Sponsorship – Kelly Foguth, Connecting Hearts Coordinator

Student sponsorship began at CHCS when Spanish teacher Señora Hall encouraged Pre K through 6th grade students to bring coins to Spanish class to sponsor students through a program offered by ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International).

In September, 1994, students brought in enough offerings to sponsor two boys in Guatemala. The students began praying and writing letters to Alberto and Mario in Spanish class. Throughout the years, sponsorships grew as students brought in more and more offerings. Today, each campus sponsors eight students — one per grade level.

Connecting Hearts Ministry (CHM) was created in 2007 to enable personal involvement with the students in Guatemala. This allowed CHCS families and friends to sponsor their own child and allowed for a higher level of education for the sponsored students. God has blessed this ministry, and presently CHM has over 150 sponsorships, providing a wonderful opportunity for children in Guatemala to receive a Christian education.

Sponsorship makes an eternal impact in the life of a child. Not only do they grow in their academics, but they also learn God's Word and grow in a relationship with Christ. While many students would drop out of school to work and provide for their families, sponsorships enable them to continue their education. Now most students graduate from high school, and many continue into college.

There have been countless stories shared of the impact that sponsorships have made in the lives of families in Guatemala. Facing many obstacles and difficulties, these children have received hope and encouragement from their sponsors to overcome and persevere. These relationships have been a blessing for both the student and sponsor.

**"CHCS students are learning God's heart for the world, and the importance of loving God and loving others well. They are learning that God can use them at any age to make a difference in the world."**

The CHCS Missions class provides students the unique opportunity to interact with Guatemalan children. They pray for their sponsored students, write letters, receive pictures, and communicate through video chat. Sixth grade families have the opportunity to travel to Guatemala and serve at the Amigos School and meet their sponsored student in person. These trips are life-changing for CHCS students.

CHCS desires that students grow in their love for God and others. This will impact how they live, the choices they make, and the way they share with those in need.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matthew 22:37-39*

### SOUTH CAMPUS SPONSORED STUDENTS



### SOUTH CAMPUS SPONSORED STUDENTS





# Chapel Hill Christian School

## NORTH CAMPUS

1090 Howe Avenue  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221  
330-929-1901

## SOUTH CAMPUS

1639 Killian Road  
Akron, OH 44312  
330-896-0852

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2024 Chapel Hill Christian School  
Charity Golf Outing is set for **Monday, June 24**  
at Glenmoor Country Club in Canton. Watch for ways  
you can participate in this annual CHCA favorite



### OUR MISSION:

Love... Learn... Launch... Christ's Greatest Commandment for  
Christ's Great Commission: Mark 12:30-31; Matthew 28:18-20

### OUR VISION:

Chapel Hill Christian School, in partnership with the home  
and the Church, exists to inspire students to love God and love  
one another, to reach their highest potential academically,  
spiritually, socially, and physically, and to be launched into God's  
designed future with the skills and spiritual maturity necessary to  
experience success. Our vision is to create an environment where  
their God-given uniqueness is celebrated, and they are taught to  
value a passionate commitment to academic excellence, Biblical  
worldview, and service for Christ.

### CHCS BOARD:

Dan Petschke, Chairman	Jill Hiner, Treasurer	Robb Martin
Kurran Bishop, Vice Chairman	Brian Blair	Shay Music
Mary Bloom, Secretary	Kemp Boyd	Hoai-Nghia Nguyen
	Zach Brott	Jim Swanson
	Brittney Bush	Ryan Walton

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Chapel Hill Christian School admits students of any race, color,  
and national or ethnic origin.