

# THE Communicator

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MARCH 2024

## Chapel Hill Announces Appointment of New North Campus Principal



### A Note from Lead Administrator, Mrs. Jackie Mathews

As we draw near to the close of another enriching academic year, it is with both fond remembrance and great anticipation that we share an important update with our extended school community.

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Cathy Shafer, our esteemed North Campus Principal, who will retire after more than four decades of faithful service to Chapel Hill Christian School. Mrs. Shafer's unwavering commitment and dedication have left an indelible mark on our school, touching the lives of countless students, families, and staff members. We will honor Mrs. Shafer's exceptional service and celebrate her remarkable legacy at this year's Spring Event in May.

As we bid farewell to one remarkable leader, we warmly welcome another. It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Mrs. Lisa Stewart as the new North Campus Principal, effective beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year. Mrs. Stewart brings a wealth of experience, having spent the last 12 years at Valley Christian Academy in Aurora, Ohio, predominantly teaching fifth grade. Her academic background, passion for Christian education,

and demonstrated leadership within the academic setting and her local church make her an excellent fit for our Chapel Hill family.



Mrs. Stewart holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Wilberforce University, a Masters of Business Administration from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, and a Teaching Certification from Indiana Wesleyan University. Her journey from finance to education reflects her deep sense of purpose and dedication to Christian education, while her affable demeanor and relational approach have resonated deeply throughout the hiring process. We are confident that Mrs. Stewart will uphold our values of academic excellence and spiritual growth, bringing a

renewed energy and vision to her role as North Campus Principal.

At our annual Spring Event, we will gather to witness and celebrate the amazing gifts and talents being cultivated in our students. This year, we look forward to formally welcoming Mrs. Stewart into our fold, and praying for a grace-filled path ahead. We will also honor and pray a prayer of blessing over Mrs. Shafer. We look forward to an event filled with gratitude, reflection, and fellowship as we extend our wholehearted support and prayers for these two ladies as they both begin new chapters in their lives.

As we navigate these transitions, let us take a moment to express our gratitude to God for His faithfulness and guidance. May we continue to trust in His provision as we embark on this exciting new chapter in the journey of Chapel Hill Christian School.

**“As we bid farewell to one remarkable leader,  
we warmly welcome another.”**



## NORTH CAMPUS NOTES



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

We are already beginning the new student entrance testing for 2024-2025 and meeting with our new parents. It is a true blessing when several of us get to spend an hour with a new family. We can discuss how they initially heard about CHCS, their goals and desires for their child/ren, hear their journey in their relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior, and gain more insight about their child/ren.

From the administrative side, we can clarify CHCS's philosophy of Christian education, answer questions and concerns, and spend time explaining the importance and details of our Parent Covenant. The heart of the covenant is to be like-minded between home and school. Our children deserve to be in an environment that shares similar biblical values from home to school. A child should not be caught in the middle of varying worldviews and lifestyle choices.

Additionally, we want to celebrate the individual uniqueness of our students and

their families. When we model what it looks like to *"love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, and mind, and love our neighbors as ourselves,"* our students are the winners. The fact that we are all made in God's image and yet so different encourages us to accept one another and celebrate our differences.

We are thankful for our current parents, and those joining our CHCS community next school year. Thank you for allowing all of us at CHCS to serve your child and family.

**"We want to celebrate the individual uniqueness of our students and their families."**

## SOUTH CAMPUS GREETINGS



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

In a recent chapel, I asked the students, "What do these mean?" I then proceeded to display various logos on the screen. There were resounding answers across the gym, calling out, "McDonald's," "Target," "Mickey Mouse," and yes, it's the parents' fault, "Starbucks!" Even the littlest ones knew what each of these represented.

Then I asked, "What is it called when something stands for or represents another thing?" It is a symbol. We have symbols all around us telling us the meaning of something without even needing to use words.

I then asked the students to look around the gym and tell me if they saw any other symbols. They quickly caught on and pointed out the Chapel Hill Christian School triangle on our posters and their uniforms. I told them that this symbol is in front of them at home and school every day, and it is important for them to know what it means.



#### Do YOU know what our triangle means?

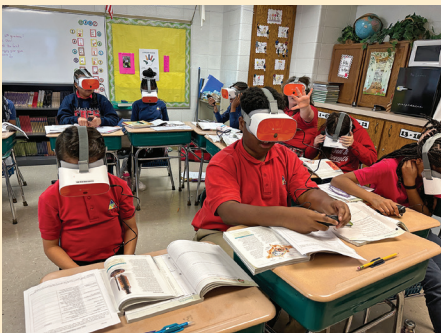
At the very center is the cross. The foundation of all we do at CHCS is the Truth of the Lord Jesus, found in God's Word. "What does the Bible say?" is the question most asked at school, as we model for and teach students a Biblical Worldview with the prayer that it transforms their hearts and minds!



Each leg of our triangle represents what helps build this foundation for our students. The bottom leg is the FAMILY. God directs parents to "bring them (their children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." This is why it is important for us to have families at CHCS in which the parents have the same heart for their children as we do. We need to be in agreement, based on the Word of God, to give our students a firm foundation on which to stand.

The left leg of our triangle is the CHURCH. Attending church is an important part of the teamwork. When parents are nurturing their children in the Lord, then church will reinforce what is being taught at home. This is why church attendance is part of our Parent Covenant. Something is speaking into our children's lives. When we don't intentionally guide what that something is, culture is waiting to swoop in and do the job for us – causing confusion. When home and church agree, children receive a strong, consistent message on which to build their lives.

The right leg of our triangle is CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. Families could send their students to any school, but when they choose a Christian School, they choose a place that should align with the home and church. This continues to build up the framework around a child's life, where every major part of their life points back to the center of the triangle – to the truth of Jesus and His Word! Just as our students were quick to know that a big yellow M stands for McDonald's, my prayer is that as they look down at the triangle on their uniform, with the cross in the center, they will remember that they are in a place every day that is building up a firm foundation in their lives, to help them stand!



As I reflect on my five years at Chapel Hill Christian School, I'm amazed to see the incredible transformation in our approach to education, largely driven by technological advancements. What started as a modest vision has blossomed into a cutting-edge learning environment where every student, from Pre-Kindergarten to 6th grade, has access to state-of-the-art resources and experiences.

One of the cornerstones of our technological evolution has been the integration of 85" interactive touchscreens and 1-to-1 Chromebooks in every classroom across both campuses. Through Clever QR badge logins, we've streamlined access to learning applications, ensuring both security and convenience for our students. With tools like the ViewBoard, Chromebooks, and Mi Macbooks for our educators, we have engaged students in dynamic, interactive

## Chapel Hill Christian School's Tech-Forward Journey

— Matt Murphy, IT Administrator

lessons, fostering creativity and collaboration in every subject.

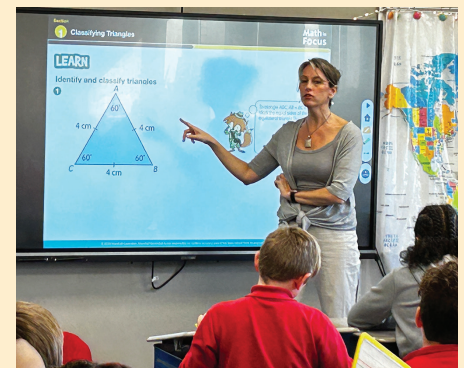
Safety is paramount in our digital age, so we implemented a Securly web filter, providing a safe online environment for students both at school and at home. This initiative reflects our commitment to academic excellence and our students' mental and spiritual well-being.

Beyond the classroom, our campuses have become hubs of innovation and exploration. From robotics clubs to immersive technology classes featuring VR headsets, our students have been transported from the Sahara to the surface of Mars without ever leaving their seats. And with coding classes and professional video production skills on the horizon, the possibilities for learning are limitless.

At Chapel Hill Christian School, being small has its advantages. It allows us to invest uniquely in equipment that is accessible to all our students, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a technologically enriched environment. We take

pride in our ability to provide personalized attention and top-notch resources that set our students up for success.

Looking ahead, our commitment to Christ-centered technological advancement remains unwavering. With many infrastructure upgrades, including servers, routers, switches, access points, and fiber internet, we are poised to continue delivering cutting-edge education that prepares our students for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. CHCS isn't just a place of learning; it's a Biblically-centered launchpad for limitless possibilities in the digital age.



# SCHOOL CALENDAR

## MARCH

25

Spring Break through April 1

## APRIL

8

Eclipse Day - NO SCHOOL

25

North Campus  
Early Childhood (PS-K)  
Fine Arts Festival

## MAY

3

South Campus  
Spring Fine Arts Festival

8

South Campus  
Early Childhood (PS-K)  
Spring Concert

10

North Campus  
Spring Fine Arts Festival

20

South Campus  
Sixth Grade Graduation

21

North Campus  
Sixth Grade Graduation

23

Last Day for Students

## JUNE

24

CHCS Annual Charity  
Golf Outing

[chapelhillchristianschool.org](http://chapelhillchristianschool.org)



## 2024 Bowl-a-Thon: Thank You for Your Support!

What an incredible 2024 Bowl-a-Thon event we had where both the North and South campuses bowled together. The atmosphere was charged with excitement – students exchanging high-fives, leaping for joy, and running to tell the principal, “I just beat your score.”



None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of our remarkable faculty, staff, volunteers, and generous donors. **Your contributions have played a vital role in making this event a resounding success.** Together, we have raised over \$54,000. Praise God! Your generosity will help ensure that Christian education remains accessible to all of our families. Thank you for helping to further the mission of Chapel Hill Christian School.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS!

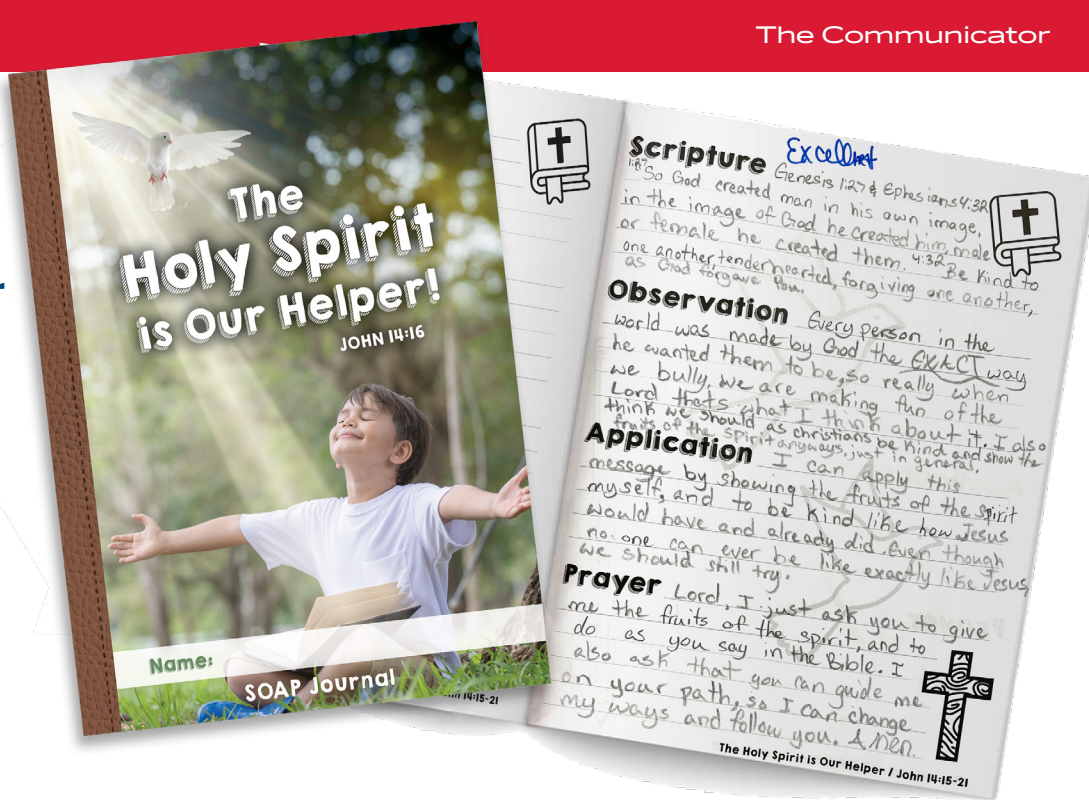
Donations to CHCS may be made in memory or in honor of someone at [chapelhillchristianschool.org](http://chapelhillchristianschool.org) or by calling the school office at 330-896-0852.

NAME	FUND	NOTE
Bonnie Graves	General Fund	In Memory of Ronald Graves, Former CHCS Teacher
Judith O'Hare	General Fund	In Honor of Lane Walton's Birthday, Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ryan Walton
Judith O'Hare	Vision Casting Fund	In Honor of Sloane Walton's Birthday, Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Ryan Walton
Swanson Family Trust DTD	Vision Casting Fund	In Memory of Mr. Ken Hoffman '69, Mr. Ray Hoffman, Pastor Cang Dang, and Mr. Jim Rivers

## 2023-2024 Theme Journal: The Holy Spirit is our Helper

This school year, CHCS created a Journal for the 3rd-6th grade students to encourage them to journal using the S.O.A.P method (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer). The idea is for the students to go beyond scripture memorization and look deeper into the scriptures to discover what the Holy Spirit might be speaking to them from the Word of God.

At right is a journal entry by one of our 5th graders, which so wonderfully emulates the "mission and vision" of CHCS.



## FAMILY MATTERS Media: Helpful or Harmful?

— Emily Baumann, South Campus Counselor

In my role at the South Campus, I spend most of my time talking with students one-on-one. I have been both amazed and concerned at the number of conversations that have become centered on screen time and media. Whether it's video games, TV shows, or especially YouTube, our elementary students spend significant amounts of time engaging with some kind of media. And wow, can they tell me all about it! The detail in which even first graders can explain a video game or a show they've seen on YouTube is astounding.

I want to encourage and maybe even admonish us as parents, grandparents, and caring adults to be cautious and intentional about what we allow our kids to play and watch online. I find YouTube particularly concerning, as even if a child starts out watching something innocent, the other options that pop up or ads can take your child where you, or they, didn't intend.

Thankfully, there are several good resources to help parents discern safe media options.

**Plugged In Online**, under the umbrella of Focus on the Family, is a great media resource for families and has been a go-to of mine for years. They provide detailed, in-depth reviews of movies, music, TV shows, video games, and even popular YouTube Channels from a family-centered, Christian perspective. **Common Sense Media** is another similar resource, though from a secular perspective, that gives age-based reviews on popular media.

As your child engages in music, movies, or video games, I encourage you as parents to be vigilant and careful. Use parental locks where available. Sit down with your child and watch what they are watching, or ask to sit with them for a bit as they play their favorite video game. They may not be too thrilled about this, but that's okay!

Be especially discerning about allowing your child to have internet access in their room, whether on a cell phone or an Xbox, where they can engage with media behind closed doors. Consider the following questions: Do



you truly know everything your elementary child is being exposed to? What is involved in the games they play? Is what you see or hear acceptable to you as their parent?

As hard as we may try to shield our children, questionable issues will always pop up in one area or another. Take those moments to converse with your child about those topics. Point them back to what God has to say. Get them thinking about how to discern what is honoring and pleasing to God.

Matthew 6:22 says, "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light." Let us test the media that both we and our children are consuming. Are we, as parents, modeling good choices? God has given us this wonderful opportunity to steward and lead our children. Let's be good examples of discernment and work to honor God in all we do.

**"I want to encourage and maybe even admonish us as parents, grandparents, and caring adults to be cautious and intentional about what we allow our kids to play and watch online."**

# CONNECTING HEARTS UPDATE

## Sixth-Grade Students Make Meaningful Connections in Guatemala

– Kelly Foguth, Director of Missions

Watching our CHCS students travel outside their comfort zone to serve in Guatemala is amazing. There are a lot of emotions as they prepare to meet their sponsored student, serve at the Amigos School, and build relationships with children who don't speak the same language. The week is busy as the students learn about a new culture and interact with many new people who soon become friends. It is a life-changing experience that will not soon be forgotten. Below, the sixth graders share moments that stood out from their recent trip.

“One memory that stuck out to me was about my brother's sponsored student, José David, and his family. We went for a home visit, and they kindly welcomed us into



their home. His mom fed us these yummy things called tostadas. Even though they have so little, they give so much. In the next few days, his family brought us a delicious food called Mole, made of plantains, chocolate, and spices, and on the last day, they brought gifts for the whole group.” – Lucy Moyer

Mandy and Lucy Moyer with José David and his family

“The Guatemalans are really nice people. They welcomed all of us into their houses even though there were eleven of us!”

“After all the Skype videos with Brandon, the boy we've sponsored since kindergarten, we finally met him and played soccer with him for hours. I also connected with another boy named Christopher. He became a great friend even though we didn't speak the same language.”

“Another thing that really impacted me in Guatemala was how poor some of the people were, and yet they were still so happy with what they had. I remember going into a house with a family of six people, and the house didn't have any electricity, but the kids were all smiling.” – Harrison Music



Harrison Music with his new friend, Christopher

Harrison, Duke, and Hayden making new friends on the soccer field



“During my time in Guatemala, I learned that the Guatemalans may be poor, but that doesn't mean they can't be happy. The Guatemalans are appreciative of what they have.” – Hayden Till

Duke teaching basketball to the students at the Amigos School



“My trip to Guatemala had an impact on me because I live my life differently. The houses I saw were not like American homes. I taught basketball to the students at the school. They didn't know a lot about basketball, but they had fun learning basketball skills. I also shared a devotion with them that God gave us gifts to glorify Him.” – Duke Boone

## BLESSING WITH BOOKS

In Guatemala, it is very uncommon for schools to have a library filled with books. There are also not local libraries down the road where they can go to read and check out books. The children do not have access to books as we do here. We would love to help change this at the Amigos school. Students at both CHCS campuses are bringing in their offerings to purchase Spanish books to send. What a blessing this will be for our friends in Guatemala!



# OHIO EDCHOICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**His masterpiece  
in Christ Jesus  
to do good works,  
which God prepared in  
advance for them to do.**

**Ephesians 2:10**



**Chapel Hill  
Christian School**



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE GROWING AT CHCS!

The opportunity to give your child a dedicated and rewarding Christian education is now more attainable due to the new expanded EdChoice Scholarship Program. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. Once your child has been accepted to CHCS, we encourage you to begin the Income Verification Process and find out what scholarship amount you are eligible for.



**SCAN FOR  
MORE INFO**

**ALL** Ohio residents are eligible for a minimum of a \$616.50 scholarship and potentially up to \$6,165 towards tuition for all K-6 students.

Through this opportunity for Christian education, CHCS's purpose remains clear. We exist in collaboration with our families and their churches to inspire children to become all God has created them to be!

As our students receive excellent elementary academic preparation, they are learning to love God and each other, embracing a worldview based on God's Word, and being launched into His plans for their futures. *"We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago"* Ephesians 2:10.

**It's as simple as 1, 2, 3 to find what  
your child is eligible for once you  
have been accepted to CHCS.**



**Step  
#1 | Am I Eligible  
for EdChoice?**



**Step  
#2 | What Schools  
Can I Choose?**



**Step  
#3 | How Do I  
Apply/Renew?**

**We look forward to hearing from  
you and are eager to answer any  
of your questions during the  
scholarship application process.**



# 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

NON PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
CLEVELAND OH  
PERMIT NO. 498

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

## 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 CHCS favorite.



SCAN ME!



Don't wait register your group today!

## OUR MISSION:

Love... Learn.... Launch...

To build a foundation for young students to desire, pursue, and grow in an authentic relationship with Christ, while achieving academic excellence, and discovering God's path for their future.

## OUR VISION:

Our goal at CHCS, in partnership with home and church, is to create a Christ-centered environment where each student's God-given uniqueness is celebrated, and where they are taught to value a passionate commitment to academic excellence, Biblical worldview, and service for Christ, so that they are equipped with the necessary skills and spiritual maturity to succeed in life. We believe that fostering an authentic relationship with God and a lifelong passion for learning empowers students to fulfill their unique God-given purpose and make a lasting positive impact on the world.

## CHCS BOARD:

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

CHCS is delighted to offer *The Communicator*. If you would like to receive this publication electronically or be removed from the mailing list, please email: [ccunningham@chapelhillchristianschool.org](mailto:ccunningham@chapelhillchristianschool.org).

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