



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025

A WELCOME LETTER FROM TRACY ROBINSON - HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Hickory Christian Academy Alumni,

I would like to personally welcome each of you to our long-overdue Alumni Newsletter! I am excited to reconnect with each of you as we celebrate our 20th graduating class this spring, and reflect on the impact each and every one of you had on making HCA an amazing place to go to school. Since its inception, Hickory Christian Academy has had a mission of equipping children to become God's leaders in the next generation. After 30 years, we now have a full generation of 486 graduates who are hard working Christ-followers in our community, state, and beyond. Your training at home, church, and school is now on full display as you impact the world you have entered. When I hear from you, or see you, I am filled with joy at what the Lord has done in each of your lives.



The Classical Christian education you received on our campus gave you the foundation to become doctors, lawyers, pastors, teachers, engineers, business leaders, writers, church members, husbands, wives, and parents. The world is better because you are in it! This newsletter is intended to reopen our lines of communication and to share with you everything that God has been doing on our campus and in the lives of our students. As past graduates, we want you to be a part of the journey as HCA grows to meet the needs of THIS generation of HCA students. Yes, believe it or not, I am still here, and the mission remains the same, to train up intelligent, articulate thinkers who live through a biblical worldview. As the culture changes, we see more and more interest in exactly that type of training for the children of Christian parents in the Hickory area.

While every day is a challenging adventure, God's faithful hand continues to be on our school, and His grace is always sufficient to our needs. We hope to send this type of newsletter out once or twice a year to help you stay in touch, and there will be much more information to share as the years go by, but in the meantime, I hope you enjoy this first installment and feel a little nostalgia for your past high school days. We continue to pray for each one of you, four alumni each morning before school begins, that the grace of Jesus fills your heart and supplies your needs. You continue to be loved, whether you live down the street or around the globe, and will forever be Knights in the society of HCA graduates. Enjoy catching up!

In Christ,

ALUMNI EMPLOYEES

What a blessing to the HCA community when those we formally invested in return to invest in the next generation of students. We are thrilled to have our HCA Alumni and their families join our staff of dedicated teachers.

ALUMNI NAMES YOU MAY RECOGNIZE

From left: Kaley Keller (Wife of Dillon Keller), Sarah Johnson (Wife of Alex Johnson), Emma Ruark (Wife of Keegan Ruark), Keegan Pardon, Katie Duncan, Mackenzie Sigmon, Christian Peeler (Wife of Andy Peeler).



Knights

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Hayden Ikerd, Class of 2013

I graduated as a Knight in 2013. After I entered college and the workforce, I came to appreciate how valuable my HCA education truly was. I realized that a high school program focused on cultivating thoughtful students and staffed by teachers who invested deeply in their students' growth was an extraordinary gift—one that prepared me for life far more than I had anticipated. Since graduating, I've had the opportunity to continue onto post-graduate biblical studies. During my undergrad at Liberty University, I concentrated on Hebrew and Old Testament which led to my Hebrew professor recommending me to a master's program in Jerusalem. I never imagined such a door would open for me, but the Lord showed Himself strong, providing for me to pursue a two-year degree in Israel.

Hayden's full story is featured on the HCA Alumni webpage!

www.HickoryChristianAcademy.com

HCA GROWS! GRAMMAR HALL REMODEL

During the time on our current campus, God has provided the building in which all our alumni attended, complete with a gym and cafeteria. In 2013, we acquired the buildings that had previously been the Hickory Community Chapel, which added 11 new classrooms (now being used for 6th – 8th grades), a chapel/auditorium, and fine arts space. Over the past three years, we have constructed a high school, renovated the old high school space to be permanent 3rd – 5th grades, and added about 200 paved parking spaces. This summer will be the final major addition to the long-term future planning of HCA, as we renovate the grammar wing to be permanent K-2 space. Much like the 3rd – 5th space, this new renovation will create two large classrooms out of three small rooms, giving us the facilities we will need for the long term. God continues to provide exactly what we need, precisely when we need it!

Summer 2025!

We want to stay in touch!

Visit the ALUMNI page at: www.HickoryChristianAcademy.com

***Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!**

Stay Connected!



Knights Field and The Tate Center

When athletics were first formed at HCA in 2001, we were able to borrow gym and field space from several local churches and the city of Hickory. In the fall of 2006, we had a gym of our own, which served our basketball and volleyball teams through the Class of 2017. In the fall of 2017, we partnered with Transportation Insight and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to build the Tate Center, an amazing gymnasium and workout facility, where all our varsity home games have been held over the past eight years, with middle school sports still taking place at the school gym. In the fall of 2023, we completed Knights Field, a state of the art artificial turf soccer field. While a significant financial investment, Knights Field does not require regular maintenance and drains water so quickly that we are able to use it on virtually any day, regardless of the weather. To have the best gym and the best field in Hickory for our athletic teams is truly another blessing from the Lord to our school!

(Above): The new Knights Field located beside the Thompson Rhetoric Building.
(Right) The Tate Center located off HWY 127 beside Transportation Insight.





THOMPSON RHETORIC BUILDING DEDICATION

October 22, 2024



Thompson Rhetoric

Building

October 22, 2024

***From left: Alan Williams, Ada Jones,
Warren Wood, Mark Maier, Paul
Thompson, Tracy Robinson, Hank Guess,
Connie Peeler, Kaleb Massey***

From virtually the moment we moved onto our current campus in the fall of 2006, HCA has had a desire to acquire the Neill Clark park property next door to meet our long term growth needs. Of particular interest was the former North State Academy building. Because of its size and school layout design, it was an ideal building for us to use for classroom space as our campus expanded. Many will recall our school renting that building from the city for middle school classes in 2012-2014, and then again during the Covid year of 2020-2021. We were also able to use the soccer fields on that property for much of the past decade for practices and games. At long last, on Dec. 20, 2022, we were blessed to purchase not only the building, but the surrounding 7 acres of the west end of the park, including the upper soccer field and parking lot.

From that point until the fall of 2024, we worked tirelessly to convert a 50 year old building in disrepair into a beautiful new school facility designed to educate over 200 high school students, in addition to creating a state of the art turf soccer field with the Knights logo prominent in the middle. These facilities are a showcase to all who drive by our property, and a source of great academic and spiritual training for today's and tomorrow's Christian youth in the Hickory area.

On October 22, 2024, we officially dedicated this facility to our long time friends, Paul and Wanda Thompson. Over the life of HCA, no one has been more faithful in their support for our school and its mission to our area. Paul was instrumental in helping establish a permanent campus for our school in Hickory after years of borrowing church space. He was also a board chairman and head golf coach back in the day, while Wanda was the champion who created our first school library and promoted reading and good literature in our school.

HCA is proud and excited to now own the Thompson Rhetoric Building as a place of hope for Christian families in the Hickory area who simply want the best training for their children. We welcome any alumni to come and take a tour the next time you are in town!

**“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who
build it labor in vain.” - Psalm 127:1a**