

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



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HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY A DECADE OF EDUCATING STUDENTS

The 2016-2017 school year marks the tenth anniversary for Hope Christian Academy! We are celebrating a decade of helping families in the Midlands of South Carolina with specialized instruction for students with learning disabilities.

Director's Update

Hope Christian Academy is a very *unique* school. We are the answer to many students' and parents' frustrations in "regular" schools. We find each student's academic strengths, their interests, and their goals for education. We teach the skill of reading through phonetic methods, as well as novel studies and poetry. We teach math facts, as well as Consumer Math and Algebra. We travel the globe through World Geography as well as through space to all the planets in the Milky Way. *HCA is a very unique school.*

Current statistics from the Learning Disabilities Association of America state there are 2.4 million students in the US that have been diagnosed with a learning disability. 96% of the families impacted by learning disabilities state they do not feel their children's learning differences are being addressed in the classroom. Furthermore, they

believe if teaching techniques were adapted and individualized in their student's classes, they would be able to learn and succeed.

Our teachers at HOPE do just that. Each student is assessed, weaknesses are identified, and core classes are taught using direct instruction. Our teachers know which skills are mastered and which ones need more practice. Many lessons are converted to hands-on experiences. On any given day a student may be constructing word families, acting out reading stories, and using manipulatives in math. Later that same day they might visit a brokerage company to learn about investing. *HCA is a very unique school.*

As the director of Hope Christian Academy for 8 years, I have been fortunate and blessed to witness many success stories: high school graduations, confidence in reading

sky rocketing, the fine tuning of study skills and organization, making change with small and large money amounts, reading for pleasure, and the list goes on and on. The parents at Hope are supportive and energetic, the teachers are patient and creative, and the staff at First Baptist is welcoming and interested in what's happening at HOPE. Thank you to all the contacts and donors for your interest and gifts to HOPE. *HCA is indeed a very unique school!*



Jill Sinclair, Director

MEET THE STUDENTS OF HOPE



Regan

Hope Christian means a lot to me. Since I came to Hope, I have been doing better in reading. I am better at sounding out the words. I like the way the teachers teach me because they make subjects fun and easy to understand. We get awesome lunches from Chef Richard that are delicious. I like art with Ms. Shiver because we get to do a lot of cool stuff. I also like P.E. because Mr. Mark and Miss Cindy are there. We also get to play games on Fridays. Hope Christian rocks!!

Gabriel

Hope Christian Academy is fun and is a great school for kids who learn better in a small class. There are cool subjects like P.E., book club, dance class, and chorus. We have cool field trips. Last week our field trip was to the Governor's Mansion. We get to learn about the Bible in Bible Study each day. Hope is so fun that school goes by quickly! All of my teachers are my favorite, and I love them all! I also love all of the students that come to Hope with me.

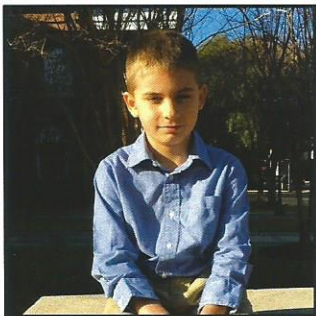


Ava

Hope Christian means a lot to me because it has taught me a lot. I like all of the cool field trips we have. I enjoy all of the stories we get to read in reading class. Some of the fun classes we have are art with Ms. Shiver, and game time on Friday with all of the Hope students. I like that we pray before we start Bible, and also before we eat. I love that I don't have lots of homework at night because we complete our homework together at school. I love Hope Christian!

Chase

Since I became a student at Hope I get to have fun at school. We get to go on fun field trips. My friends are awesome! We get to learn about God. I like all of my teachers. My favorite class at Hope is math, and we are learning multiplication facts right now.

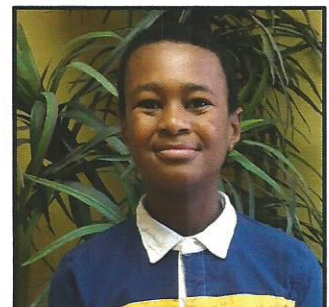


Zachary

Hope is fun! I like reading and grammar because my teachers make it fun! We are reading a mystery right now, and in grammar I am in a group with Chase and Gabriel. I also like math a lot. I like that we get to learn about God. I am very excited we get to learn how to play cornhole!

Drew

I like Hope because we have fun and do work. My favorite subject is science because it is important to learn about the bones, outer space, planets and animals and how they live. Hope has helped me with all of my subjects. I like to learn at Hope.





Noah

I like to see my friends at Hope. I'm working on math, reading, economics, and government. I enjoy my writing class and I'm learning to write in cursive. I like to eat lunch with my friends. My favorite thing to do in P.E. is to play basketball.

Sharmaine

This is my second year at HCA. I'm in the tenth grade. As part of my transition class I get to do an internship. I am interning at Kathwood Baptist Preschool. I love working with the babies. They range in age from a few months to a year old. I feed them, hold them, and make them happy. It's fun to make them smile! They are really cute. One day I may want to work there.



Garrett

I'm in the tenth grade at HCA. In high school we learn about careers and job skills. I like sports, so I was happy to get a job at the First Baptist Church gym. Every Wednesday I work after school. Some of the things I do are cleaning the tables, floors, snack room, and wiping down the exercise equipment. My favorite sport is basketball, so when I finish my work I get to shoot baskets. I would like to be a basketball coach in the future.

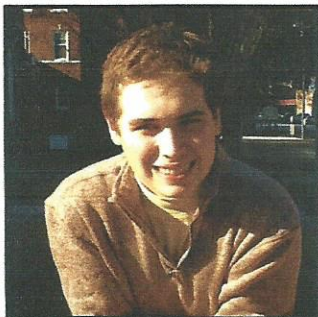
Hayden

I really enjoy coming to school here at Hope, and not just because of the food. I love the environment at this school because it is so much more relaxed and less stressful than what I had experienced. Since we complete our homework at school I can do more things outside of school. I used to stay up until nine o'clock trying to finish homework, and getting super stressed about it. At Hope we complete our homework because there are less distractions and the assignments are compact so we aren't just doing tons of busy work. Everyone at Hope is like a family and they are always kind to each other. I am so blessed to call Hope Christian Academy my school.



Harrison

While I've attended Hope I have improved my typing skills. I'm also better at math, reading, and writing. I used to get frustrated when trying to learn new things, but now it's so much easier for me. At HCA there are so many kind teachers who help us learn every day. The students are fun to hang out with and I enjoy being here with them.



I will be graduating this May. I'm excited to be finished with high school. It was awesome to be at HCA for seven years. Last school year I had an internship with the Department of Natural Resources as part of my transition class. I hope to continue working with DNR in the future. In fact, after graduation, I'm hoping to learn about agriculture to work at a hunting camp for disadvantaged children. We will plant food plots for deer and other animals. We will plant dove fields. I'm looking forward to taking care of our deer herds and nature. I want to help children learn how to care for their surroundings. I love being outdoors!

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STAFF



Caroline Dodd

I absolutely love teaching at HCA! This is my seventh year working with our amazing students. What I love most about being a part of Hope is that we are like a big family. The students and teachers help, encourage, and support each other. We enjoy learning new things together and, of course, having fun together.

I've had the incredible opportunity to witness so many of our students literally blossoming before my eyes. We've had students come to us very withdrawn because of negative experiences at previous schools. It's exciting to now see them laughing and engaged with others. For some, it's the first time that they have felt like they have friends. Additionally, many of our students have struggled with academics, particularly reading. I've been able to watch them become good readers, and more importantly, actually like reading. With experiences like that, they become more confident each and every day. It makes me happy to know that our students look forward to coming to school. They know that at HCA they will experience success.

Being a Christian educator at Hope allows me to encourage our students to see and understand the world through the perspective of God's truth. I have taught at Hope since its conception, for 10 amazing years.

I enjoy teaching at Hope because of the wonderful attitude of students, staff and parents. The students' desire to achieve in academic areas, as well as electives (sports, art and music), make it a joy teaching here. We have become a loving and supportive family.



Misty Harley

I feel like the Lord led me to be at Hope, and I am so happy to be here. I love what I am doing and I love my students! I really enjoy teaching them. It is truly a relaxed learning environment, and each student receives personal attention. I have seen my students improve measurably since school started. I am so pleased with the progress I see in everything from social skills, to prayer and concern for others, to improvement in thinking and reasoning and reading and writing. It is my prayer that I can be a blessing to each student and each family represented at Hope. You have already been a blessing and inspiration to me!

This is my first year working as a tutor at HCA. I enjoy teaching reading, algebra, grammar, and writing. I love being a tutor here, because we all treat each other like a big family. It's great being able to watch the students learn and grow. I can see the differences in each student academically and socially, and they are extremely positive. Hope has been welcoming and loving throughout my experience here, and I can't wait to come to work each morning!



Ella Shiver



Melissa Pittelli

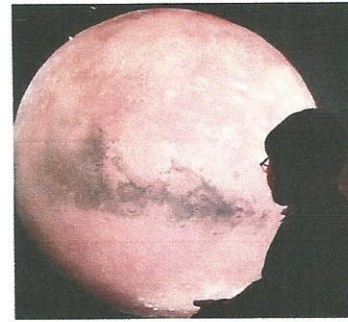
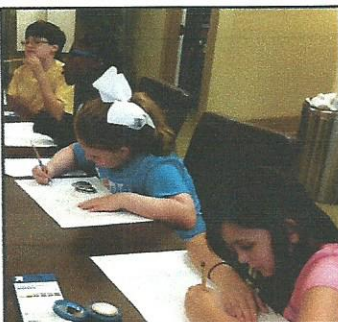
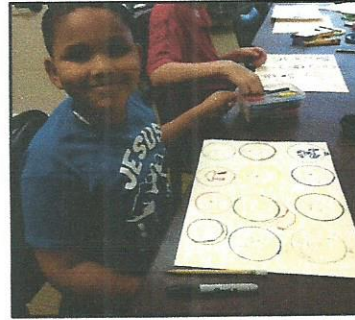
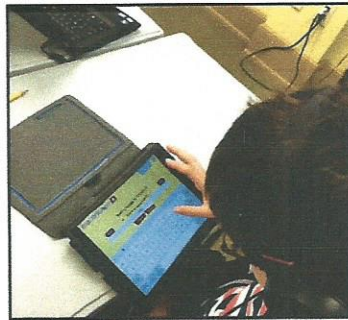
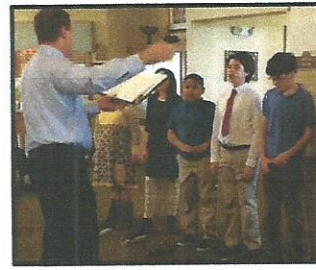
Save the Date

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 6:30 P.M.

Hope Christian Academy
Annual Silent Auction and Dinner
First Baptist Church of Columbia
1306 Hampton St., Ellis Hall

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

Each year Hope students and faculty choose one or more service projects to complete throughout the school year. They are very excited about this year's project. Hope students are visiting assisted living homes in the Columbia area. Students decorate cards and hand them out to each resident. In choir they rehearse songs to perform with Mr. Keith Watson, Associate Minister at First Baptist Church. They sing for the residents, and sometimes invite them to join in. They have visited The Haven in The Summit, and Brookdale Senior Living Solutions. We love to bring Hope and joy to these special residents!



A Mother's Testimony

Natalie Stewart's son, Gabriel, is new to Hope Christian Academy this year. While driving home from school one day, Gabriel shared with his mom his feelings about school. Natalie was excited to share with us his changed attitude!

"Recently, Gabriel told me that he **LOVES MATH!!!** I couldn't believe it! That was the first time **EVER** I've heard that from him. He then proceeded to say that actually he loves Science, he loves Grammar, he loves Reading... 'Actually, I love all my classes,' in a matter of fact tone. He said, 'Actually, I love my school, all the teachers and all the students.'"

Natalie told us, "We want to express our appreciation for all the teachers, especially Ms. Shiver, and staff at Hope for all they do for Gabriel. It is a blessing not having to worry about whether he is getting what he needs. **THANK YOU!!!**"

We are happy to know that our goal of helping students love learning and have success every day in the classroom is making a difference for Gabriel. Thank you for sharing this success story, Natalie!

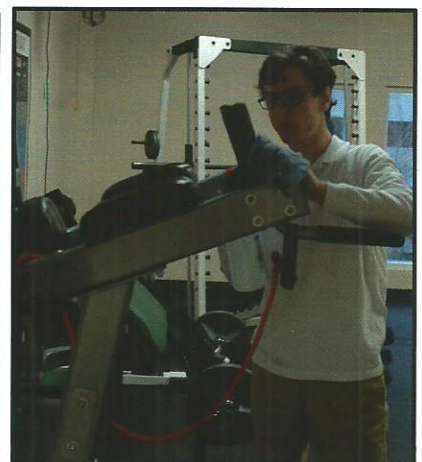
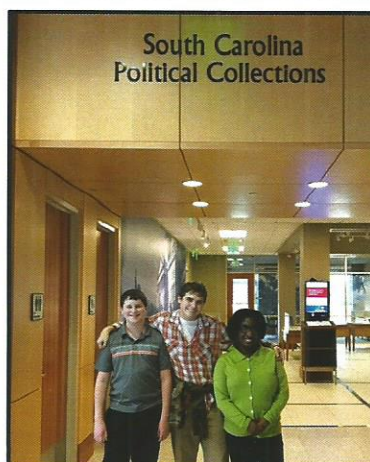
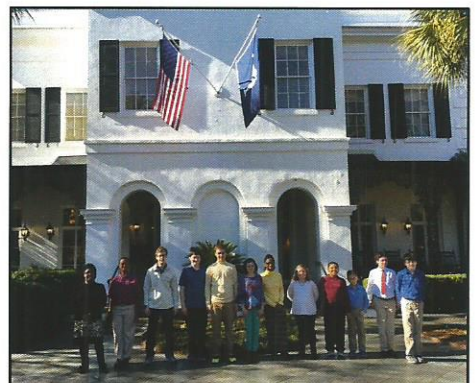
Transition

Students at Hope Christian Academy are offered all of the core courses required by the South Carolina Department of Education. In addition to these courses, Hope students benefit from experiences that bolster their daily living skills and help them to develop their interests and abilities for marketable skills after graduation.

Transition Class begins in elementary school with a focus on every day living skills that students in other schools may not be exposed to; Skills like sewing on a button, handling conflict with a friend, or dealing with frustration in a positive way. In middle and high school at Hope, Transition Class is the introduction to different work places and job options. Students consider these field trips pure fun. They *are* fun, but at the same time the students of Hope are hearing about the different jobs that people do in various work settings and what type of skills and education are necessary to prepare for these careers.

High School students at Hope continue with Transition Class as an important part of their curriculum. The dialogue between our staff, parents and students becomes more specific and personal, according to the student's interest and abilities. We continue to foster relationships with businesses in the Columbia area that are receptive to students experiencing their work setting. The Department of Natural Resources, Kathwood Preschool, and The Estep Family Life Center are just a few of the partnerships that we have established.

Hope is grateful to the many businesses that offer these beneficial experiences to our students. A list of all participating businesses is on the donor insert page.



THE GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

Some students who enroll at Hope Christian Academy find it will not be the final school they attend before graduation. Students who were struggling in a regular instructional setting often feel great relief when they begin their studies here. They realize that the stress is diminished, the workload is lessened, and the pace of instruction is able to adapt to their learning style. For many students, their ability to progress in this environment means that eventually they feel they are ready to tackle the typical classroom setting again.

Recently Laura and Joe Bailey came back to visit Hope and gave an update on their son José, who attended Hope for two years. Laura said that public school classrooms were overwhelming to José. His diagnosis of dyslexia made him feel different and like he wasn't as smart as his classmates. His confidence in his own abilities plummeted. The Baileys began homeschooling, and José felt less

pressure. Eventually, he began to miss the interaction with other students. Then the Baileys discovered HOPE.

José began attending Hope when he was in seventh grade. The small class size was a great fit for him, and because he felt comfortable, he was able to focus. José's mother, Laura, put it this way: "For José, Hope Christian Academy was a gateway to success in the classroom. As he gained confidence, he realized that he could learn the material presented to him. The ability to learn at his own pace and master academic skills in this environment gave him the assurance he could succeed, even if he faced challenges others did not." José gained in many academic areas, but his reading and fluency skyrocketed. José is in the 10th grade, and is now on the honor roll at his school.

Hayden Livermore may well be another student who transitions

back to a typical classroom eventually. He was attending public school and enrolled in honors classes. In 2012 he was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent multiple surgeries and radiation treatment. Because of a lot of missed time in the classroom and quick memory damage because of radiation, he began to fall behind. His mother, Mary Livermore, said, "Hayden began to hate school and wanted to drop out at twelve years old." Mary began to pray for a different school setting for Hayden. When she was introduced to Hope, she felt like her prayers had been answered. Hayden now looks forward to school and talks about his future.

With curriculum that addresses learning differences and Individualized Education Plans that not only help identify academic weaknesses, but academic strengths, Hope will continue to shore up students who are searching for the gateway to their academic success.

Special Needs Tax Credit Impacts Families Enrolled at Hope

The Special Needs Tax Credit Program has continued to aid families enrolled at Hope. This year the Department of Revenue took over the operation of the program. Families were eligible to receive up to \$11,000.00 of their tuition by receiving scholarship or being reimbursed for tuition they paid. The DOR has been collecting donations to fund this program, and several Hope families have utilized one or both options to help defray the cost of private specialized education for their child.

This is one more way that individuals and businesses can help families who seek specialized education like students at Hope Christian Academy receive. Your donation to Exceptional SC can be used as a tax credit against your overall South Carolina income tax liability. This applies to personal or corporate income tax. Ask your accountant about participating in this tax credit, and use your state tax dollars to benefit students with learning disabilities.

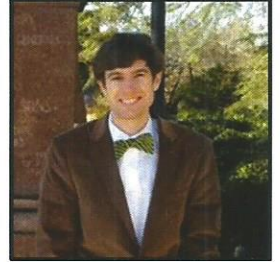
To learn more about this opportunity go to www.exceptionalsc.org.

Catching Up With Hope Christian Academy's Alumni

Rebecca Fleming graduated from Hope in 2014. Since then she keeps very busy! She is a volunteer at Richland County Public Library, Palmetto Baptist Hospital, and Hope Christian Academy. Her duties include shelving books at the library, manning the information desk at the hospital, and reading to elementary students at Hope. Kelly Veitch, manager of volunteer services at Palmetto Baptist said that Rebecca has contributed 652 hours over the past year and a half. She delivers mail and flowers to patients as well as answering phones at the information desk. Kelly states that Rebecca's sense of humor and ability to get along with everyone has made her an asset to the volunteer team at Palmetto.



Hughes Butler, Hope Christian Academy class of 2015 graduate, is in his second year at the University of South Carolina's LIFE program. He continues to pursue his love of "all things sports" by taking sports management classes, serving as an intern for the USC Athletic Department, and most recently, working as an intern for the downtown YMCA.



This spring his internship experience took a new twist. He began an internship with Senator Tim Scott in his Columbia office. Hughes is thrilled to have this opportunity, and he continues to enjoy all that the LIFE program has to offer. His time at HCA more than prepared him for all he is doing and experiencing.

Jackson Ware graduated with Hughes in 2015. He began work at Southern Produce in May of last year. His duties include making boxes and keeping the work area neat by removing trash. Jackson also continues to participate in Special Olympics. He ran the torch and lit the flame for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2016 Summer Games. He set personal records in his three events of dead lift, bench and squat during this past year.



MAILING ADDRESS:

HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
545 ALEXANDER CIRCLE
COLUMBIA, SC 29206

LOCATION:

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1306 HAMPTON ST.
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

WEB ADDRESS:

WWW.HCATODAY.ORG

FRIENDS OF HOPE

The Board of Directors, faculty and students of Hope Christian Academy join together to thank all of the individuals and businesses who have given so generously of their time, talent and resources. These gifts were received during the 2015-2016 school year. Because of your gifts, HCA continues to grow and meet the needs of our students.

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in honor of Jackson Ware

Mr. and Mrs. William Dent
in honor of Margaret G. Wolfe

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Bohemian Home
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Mrs. Larry Bass
Ms. Roxanne Bradley
California Dreaming Restaurant
Carolina Pottery
The Cat Clinic
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Zoe's Kitchen on Forest Dr.

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Columbia Children's Theatre
Decision America - Statehouse
Discovery Place
Fire Academy
Fireflies Baseball
First Baptist Church of Columbia
Kathwood Preschool
Kenneth Shuler School of Cosmetology
L&N Produce
Mast General Store
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BECOME A FRIEND OF HOPE

Hope Christian Academy is a private Christian school for students with learning disabilities. We are a 501(c)3 organization unlike any other in the Midlands of South Carolina. We look at each student enrolled at HCA through God's eyes, realizing He has a significant plan for each of them. As the 2016-2017 school year continues, we invite you to join us in educating and equipping these students to reach their full potential. We ask for your prayers, your referrals, and your financial contributions.

There are several ways to become a Friend of Hope.

- Invite the students and teachers to visit your place of business as a job site visit.
- Donate to the 2016-2017 Annual Budget - which helps with the difference between operating expenses and tuition.
- Donate to the Student Sponsorship Initiative - which helps defray tuition costs for a family in need (Current annual tuition - \$15,750.00)

Hope Christian Academy

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

I can provide a job site for HCA _____

I will donate _____ to the 2016-2017 HCA Annual Budget

I will donate _____ to the Student Sponsorship Initiative

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Hope Christian Academy
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Columbia, SC 29206