



HCA at Grace Christian
School
416 Denham Ave.
West Columbia SC 29169
Website: HCATODAY.ORG

President: Ethan Ware
Vice President: Kay Ware
Secretary/Treasurer: Stephanie Estep
Cordum
Director: Caroline Dodd
Academic Consultant: Jill Sinclair, M. Ed.

Director's Corner

Mrs. Caroline Dodd

This has been one crazy school year! When asked if I would take over as director of HCA, I was confident I could take on the added responsibilities and continue to teach full time. Then when we decided to move our school, I thought, ok we can do this. Both of these have been good for me, challenging me and pushing me way out of my comfort zone. Add to the mix the pandemic and I've realized that all of these changes are definitely more than I can handle on my own. I've found it's in these times that I know that I'm exactly where God wants me to be because I have to rely on Him for everything. I can't be a director and teach at a new school during a pandemic without leaning completely and totally on Him and His strength.

God has also provided an incredible team to make HCA run so smoothly. The families who

founded Hope have continued to work behind the scenes and have facilitated the transition as Hope becomes part of Grace Christian School. Ella Shiver, or "child whisperer" as one parent refers to her, can get any student to do anything. She truly is a gifted teacher. Our other teacher, Jenny Kerr, is new to us this year. She is wonderful and creative in how she works with our students. Ella and Jenny both make learning fun - so fun, in fact, that I don't think the students even realize they are learning most of the time!

Jill Sinclair, our former director and now educational consultant, is leaving some big shoes to fill. She always made being director look easy. I have learned a lot under her leadership. I won't do things exactly like Jill, and that's ok. I just pray that everyone is patient with me as I'm adjusting to this new role.

Speaking of adjusting, HCA's move to Grace Christian

School has been so amazing for our students. Many of them are able to participate with the Grace students in classes and sports. Even some of our students, who I thought would never want to join the Grace students, have completely surprised me. I'm learning not to put limits on them. The Hope students have all adjusted beautifully to our new school setting and aren't just surviving, but really thriving. Everyone at Grace has gone above and beyond to help us get settled and feel at home. I can't thank them enough for all they have done and continue to do to make us feel a part of Grace.



SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Tuesday, May 18

416 Denham Ave.

West Columbia, SC 29169

Check for more information about this event on our
website: www.hcatoday.org

Hope Christian Academy Board of Directors

Mr. Al Martin, Chairman
Mr. Jud Smith
Ms. Cathy Dreher Trzcinski

Jill Sinclair
Educational Consultant

Being the director of HCA for the past 12 years has been an honor. So many young people have succeeded.....earned high school diplomas, gone on to post-secondary schools, and/or become gainfully employed! I have many wonderful memories of academic successes and life experiences that I've been privileged to share with students and their families:

- Rebecca - our 1st high school graduate, who some years said she attended an "an all-boys school," until (finally) more girls enrolled!
- Hughes and Jackson - the "founding" students of HCA, who graduated in 2015 and continue to visit HCA.
- Harrison - who did internships with DNR and SC Fish Hatcheries, graduated, and is employed with a hunting association.
- Sharmaine - who did internships with local daycare centers and tutored younger students at HCA before she graduated.
- Garrett - who started at HCA in 3rd grade and grew up in front of our eyes, moved to Cody, Wyoming for his senior year in high school, and graduated from Cody High School. My husband and I attended Garrett's graduation.

Because I have always believed "a lot of learning goes on outside of the classroom", during my time as director we went on many field trips. A few of my

favorites include: The Biltmore House, Medieval Times, The SC Aquarium, Discovery Place, Chappell's Fish Farm, SC State Museum, Military Museum, Walther Farms, and Richland County Public Library, including the programs on job interviews and dressing for success.

Many thanks to Ben Lippen School (where HCA located when it was founded); to First Baptist Church (for many great years in downtown Columbia); and to Grace Christian School (where HCA moved this past summer). What a blessing it has been to work with Chris Martin and his awesome staff and faculty of Grace. They, as well as their students, have welcomed us into their fold!

It's been an incredible blessing working with Ms. Ella Shiver from the very beginning of my tenure with HCA. It has also been a pleasure working with Ms. Jenny Kerr this year.

At the beginning of this school year, I passed the baton to Mrs. Caroline Dodd, who is a phenomenal teacher and director of HCA, having incredible energy and patience. I am thrilled to continue my passion for HOPE in an as-needed role of Educational Consultant, conducting standardized testing and curriculum development.



Grace Christian School
Administrator

We are thrilled with the partnership between Hope Christian Academy and Grace Christian School. When we began discussing this partnership a couple of years ago, all of us were excited about the possibilities but also anxious about several operational specifics. This past year has answered many of the anxious questions and given us wonderful hope for a continued bright future together.

Now, looking forward, we are all excited about what the future may hold. The benefits to both HCA and GCS are exponential. Already,

HCA students have been able to enjoy athletics, elementary art and music classes, and several high school academic courses. GCS is beginning to see inquiries for new students that could benefit greatly from the resources that HCA has to offer. We see more opportunities like these for both schools in the future.

One of the benefits we have seen was also one of our most anxious areas - how would the students actually get along? Praise the Lord! This has been one of the best developments of our partnership. Witnessing the new friendships and the welcoming attitude among the students has been a blessing to all of us.

I hope that you are as excited about the future as we are. I have personally enjoyed getting to know the students and faculty at HCA and look forward to seeing how we can grow together more in the years to come.

In His Service,
Chris Martin



Exceptional SC Scholarship Program Update

As I write this report, I remember that we are approaching eleven months since the onset of the school closures in March 2020. I am reminded that especially hard hit in the last months have been the families of exceptional needs students. While many traditional classroom teachers have been able to use a variety of means to adapt the instructional model, the classroom for exceptional needs students is not readily adaptable, especially when most of these alternative methods entail off campus instruction and other modifications that are not effective for the students at Hope.

The Exceptional SC board understands these challenges and continues to work to provide financial assistance to the parents of exceptional needs students. Over the past two years, the Internal Revenue Service has made sweeping changes to the federal tax code; these changes greatly hampered the board's fundraising efforts. Why? As the tax code changed, Exceptional SC's donor base, primarily individual taxpayers, was disincentivized to donate to the program. We continue to change our focus for fundraising to include more corporate donors who will partner with our individual donors and Exceptional SC to enable our board to fund your students to the maximum amount allowed by SC law.

The Exceptional SC board remains committed to assisting parents educate students in schools like Hope.

By the time you read this report, we will have distributed about \$3 million in student scholarships. We are already making progress in our fundraising for next school year. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to me; you can email me at administrator@exceptionalsc.org. I am praying that the Lord will continue to bless the families of Hope Christian Academy.

Edward Earwood
Exceptional SC Board Chair

Philanthropy at Hope

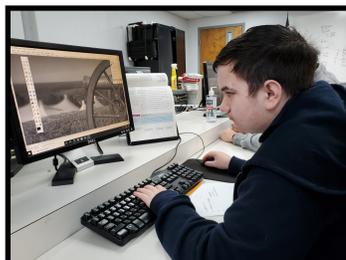
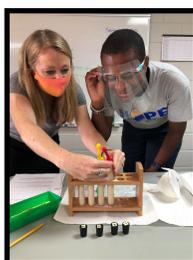
Every year students at Hope choose a service project they want to contribute to. Last year the staff and students chose **Operation Stand Down**, organized by the Wm. Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center. This event provides services to homeless veterans.

Our students were excited to be able to participate. They prepared for the day during their art class and created cards to hand out to veterans as encouragement. They also collected toiletries to hand out. It was a very hot day, and they were ready with bottled water and a smile!

It was an honor to serve the veterans who attended that day! The students and staff came back to school tired and hot, and very grateful to the veterans they met who served our country. We look forward to the next opportunity we have to serve our community!



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Hope Christian Academy Students



Lilyana

I'm glad to be at our new school location! Every day we wear Grace uniforms. I like playing games with my teachers to help me learn new things. Being at Grace I like going with my new friends to art, library, choir, and P. E. classes. I eat lunch and go to recess with them, too. Anthony and I go to choir together every Monday and Wednesday. We sang at the Christmas concert and I liked dressing up!



Chase

I like being at Hope and at Grace. I play basketball. I like being on the team. We are the Grace Lions. I play defense. I try to guard the ball. I try to keep the other team from scoring. I put P.E. clothes on to get ready. I go to practice after school. During practice I learn how to play, run laps, and practice shooting hoops. I like when people cheer at the games. I got a basket in one game. We got points. Lots of people cheered.



Anthony

When we first moved to our new school location at Grace, the first thing I noticed was the big classrooms! We have lots of room to do things. I always like doing projects with my teacher. My favorite was the "Living Wax Museum". We learned different facts about famous people and dressed up as characters that came to life! On Mondays and Wednesdays, I go to choir with the Grace students. I love to sing and perform.



James

One of the things I like at Hope is doing research on the 50 states for my U.S. Geography class. I use the iPad to do some of my research. I find the state bird, major cities, and the capital city of the state. I find the state flower. I draw and color the flowers. I find the state flag too. Those can be hard to draw. I find some facts about the states and that can be hard too. We have a book that has maps of the states. It helps me find rivers and where the capital city is on a map. My favorite part is the coloring and the drawing. My favorite state so far is Texas. This is one of my favorite classes.



Andrew

I love being a student of two schools, Hope and Grace. They each give me an opportunity to learn more about Christ and his Father. I also enjoy making new friends and getting along with my old friends. Both of these schools have really changed and influenced my life. Once a week I go to Bible study with some Grace students. Sometimes I sit with them at lunch. Last semester I participated in P.E. class with Grace students, and this semester I'm taking health with them.



Thomas

I like being at our new school location because there are more kids to make friends with. Josh is my new friend I met in P. E. We took P. E. together first semester. Flag football was my favorite. In my Hope classes, I enjoy doing projects. We made a "Living Wax Museum". I dressed up as Benjamin Franklin. My mom made my cool costume!



Ethan
I like going to our school now that we're at Grace. When Hope was at a different location, we didn't get to see other students. Now I get to hang out with people my own age. That's my

favorite thing about Grace. I take computer science, family living, and health classes with the Grace students. My favorite class at Grace is computer science. It gives me a very hands-on approach to learning.



Heath
One of the things I like doing at Hope is playing the Synonym Slam game. During our Reading class we will put out cards on our desks with words on them. We look at all the words. We hold markers in our hands. Mrs. Kerr calls

out a word, I have to slam my marker on the word that means the same thing - like big is a synonym for large. You have to be fast to find the word! Sometimes it can be tricky. It is fun.

PARENT PERSPECTIVE ALBERTA STEWART

What has been our experience at Hope Christian Academy you ask? I struggle to find the words, but I will try. Before I share about HCA, please allow me to give you some background. Our son received his autism diagnosis at age three and immediately entered a public school autism class. Those years were full of struggle and of growth. With therapy, diet change, supplements, and a host of therapists, Andrew was able to mainstream into the general education classroom. He was blessed with caring and skilled teachers who created a culture of acceptance. Andrew even had a peer buddy who not only assisted him, but became his friend. School and learning was not easy, but Andrew was doing well. Around fourth grade I began to wonder if he was truly grasping the content. The dreaded middle school years were right around the corner. I wondered what that would look

like for him. Andrew is a literal thinker and abstract concepts seemed beyond him. After much prayer, we pulled Andrew out of public school and enrolled him in a private school for different learners. This was a huge financial step, but we trusted the Lord to provide. Things went well at that school, but I felt Andrew was capable of more. Enter Hope Christian Academy. This small, Christian school is truly an oasis of hope for our family. The instruction is not watered down, but delivered in a manner that suits each student. The many opportunities for service and interaction with the community are an added blessing! Before I knew it, my literal thinker was taking literature classes and passing Algebra and Geometry! (Etiquette class too! He has better manners than I do!) God has answered my prayers. I prayed that Andrew's cognitive skills would develop so he could understand figurative and abstract concepts. Hope is a family and the teachers and

students grow emotionally, spiritually, and educationally together. The days at First Baptist hold a special place in our hearts and memories. However, the recent move to Grace Christian Academy has allowed Andrew to once again interact with more students and make more friends. If you meet Andrew you will soon see that he loves his God and loves to make friends. Most teens relish a day off school. Not Andrew! He loves to go to school and I am convinced that the Godly, nurturing environment at Hope Christian Academy is the reason why! I don't know what God has for my son's future, but I am confident that his years at HCA have equipped him for the next step.



Mrs. Kerr

Teaching at Hope has been such a joy and a challenge this year. Many of the activities and lessons have had to be modified to accommodate not spreading germs. We have had several weeks of virtual learning so far this year. One of the ways we connected and used some energy during these class sessions was with a game I call "Dice Move It!" Two dice are used to play the game. The first die is rolled and that number matches a type of movement we will all do. The second die tells us how many times we will do the movement. When we started playing online, it was great to connect and laugh while trying to move. Once we returned to in person learning, I used the game to help us refocus on rainy days or Fun Fridays. After a few sessions, I asked the students to come up with movements they would like us all to try. One student came up with Mountain Climbers - these are challenging full body movements! But we all laugh and practice prediction, social interaction, and physical coordination. The students really had fun at Christmas when I changed the movements to match characters from the Christmas Story. It was fun hearing a room full of sheep for 6 counts! We have also played this game as individuals all at the same time and that brought new challenges and laughs as well. Learning and growing at Hope has been a real blessing.



Ms. Shiver

Our relocating to Grace Christian School campus has been a good change for us. We have all adapted well. Having our students merge and interact with other students their age has added much joy to their day. As for our teachers it has been a smooth and comfortable fit. Grace's staff have made us feel welcome and connected to their programs and activities. "Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives is the perfect preparation for a future that only he can see." (Corrie Ten Boom)

My tenure at Hope has been very fulfilling and rewarding. Over the course of my 14 years, I have gained as well as shared a wealth of knowledge. I am officially retiring at the end of this school year. My last day will be on Friday, May 28th. I wish to thank each of you for the great support you have given me during those years. As I retire from teaching at Hope this year, I want to thank you for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to work, learn and grow. Teaching at Hope has contributed to my personal, professional, and spiritual growth.

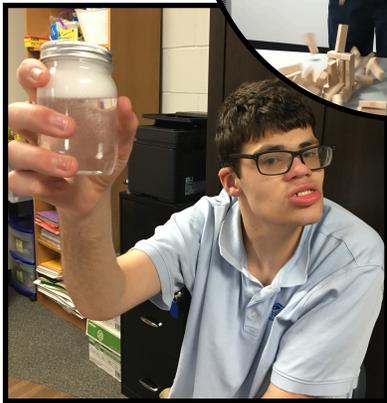
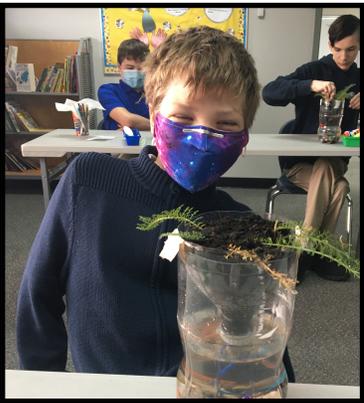
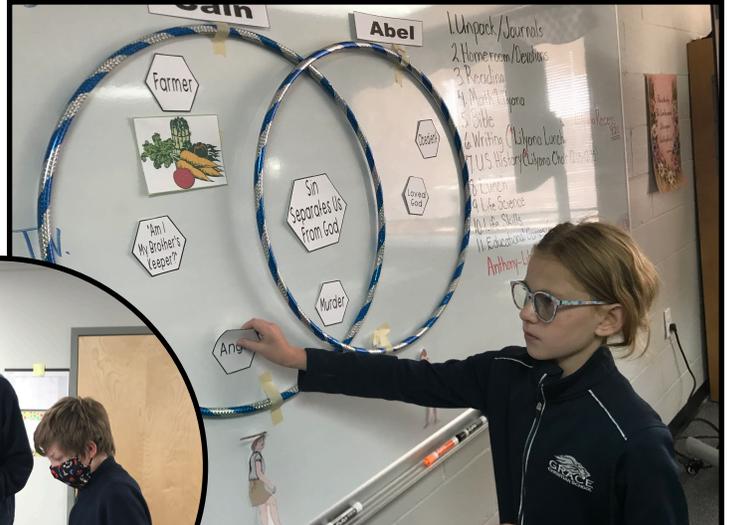
After a total of 34 happy and productive years, I leave with many memories to cherish for the rest of my life. Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." My plans for after retirement include spending more time with my family, traveling, and painting. My sons Dearold Jr. and Emanuel have been incredibly supportive throughout my educational career, but look forward to having me be just Mom and Nana to my three grandsons Chris, Emanuel Jr., and Dearold III.



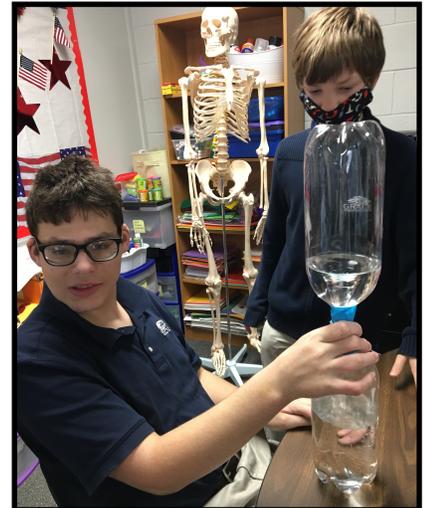
Thank you to these businesses for job site visit opportunities and field trips during 2019-2020:

SC State Museum & Planetarium ◆ VA Hospital ◆ Medieval Times ◆ Columbia Children's Theatre
Columbia Museum of Art ◆ CMC Recycling ◆ St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Regal Columbia Cinema

While Covid kept us from traveling as much as we like to during the school year, we still found ways to get out of the classroom (and the house) for learning! We did Virtual field trips which allowed us to expand to locations all over the world. These field trips included Disney World, The Grand Canyon, The Museum of the American Revolution, and The Smithsonian Institution!



HOPE



From Ethan, Kay and Stephanie
Founders of HCA

The 2020-2021 school year marks the 14th year since we began Hope Christian Academy. It began with two families, two third grade boys, and lots of worry. We gave the school the name Hope Christian Academy, because we were simply searching for hope to educate our boys when others had given up. Hope that Jackson and Hughes would continue to learn and progress towards a future that God had planned out for them. Hope that we would be able to employ teachers and staff who could help us not only meet their academic needs, but their social and spiritual needs as well. Hope that we would be able to sustain this school financially. And hope others might benefit from our efforts. We believe God answered our prayers, not only for our own families, but many others who came after us.

Since Jackson and Hughes graduated in 2015 we have been considering what the next chapter will be for Hope. It has always been our desire for Hope to continue and thrive and to be an option for families with struggling students. Our partnership with Grace Christian School is the culmination of that dream. Grace, as an accredited college prep school with South Carolina Association of Christian Schools, adds another dimension to Hope's ability to meet the needs of students with learning differences in our community.

We want to thank all of our friends, family, and community who have helped us fulfill the mission of Hope for these past 14 years. Your prayers, financial support, and countless other contributions have made that possible. We could not have done this important work without you. We are very grateful.

While we are stepping back from day-to-day leadership at Hope,

our support will not end. We urge you to remember Hope Christian Academy. We ask that you continue to pray for the leadership, the families, and most importantly the students at Hope. If you are able, plan to continue to support Hope with your financial gifts.

We are confident that God will continue to bless HCA and Grace as they work together to meet the needs of families in our community.



In Partnership with Grace Christian School
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