

Hope Christian Academy

Fall 2020



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A Year of Transition and Change

2020 has been a year of challenge and adjustment for everyone. During the worldwide Covid 19 pandemic, Hope Christian Academy has undergone enormous change.

On March 15, Governor McMaster ordered schools to close. Within three days, the staff of Hope had developed a plan to continue teaching in an online format. Teachers held Zoom classes in all academic subjects, put together packets of independent study materials for

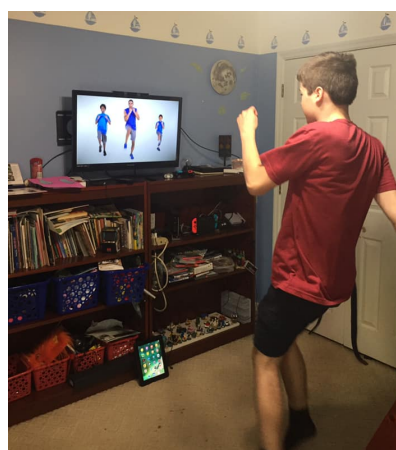
each student, and were in daily contact with families. Students continued P.E. by watching video challenges from Coach Williams and Woods, and then videoed themselves completing them. To enhance their studies of subjects like history, the students took virtual “fieldtrips” to The Smithsonian Institute and other museums. Everyone got a morale boost with our virtual Spirit Week, with fitting themes like “Sock it to Coronavirus” on crazy sock day.

The school year ended with

a celebration of our staff, students and families. Students and staff received a goody basket, and had fun opening a surprise every day for a week. This acknowledgement of their successful collaboration was well deserved.

There’s more to the story! Hope has news that we couldn’t wait to share with you. Continue reading for an update on our plans for this school year! And look for our annual mid-year newsletter in February. We will acknowledge Hope donors, and update you on our school year.





On The Move

After much prayer and consideration Hope has moved to the campus of Grace Christian School in West Columbia. This is only a move of a few miles, but for the students of Hope it offers many opportunities. Grace is a private, college-prep Christian School for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. We have been in the same school association (SCACS) over the years. We know that the students of Hope can benefit from a larger group of peers. Some Hope students may participate in extracurricular activities, and some may even be able to take an academic course through Grace. Grace can also see benefits for their students and families. If they find a student needs additional support or tutoring in an

academic area they can receive help through Hope.

For this school year we remain two separate schools, but the long-range plan is for Hope to merge with Grace and become another facet of their program. This will offer families in the Midlands area a school with the ability to meet the needs of a wide range of learning abilities.

The response from both Hope and Grace students and their families has been positive! We look forward to all that God has in store for our combined schools, and the way it will expand our ability to meet the needs of families in the Midlands.

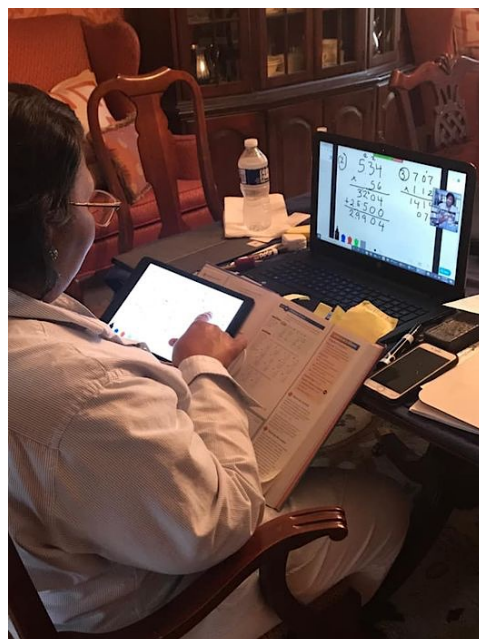
Save the Date!

Thursday, March 25

Annual Silent Auction

Go to www.hcatoday.org

for more details on how you can help



Thank you!

In 2011 Hope moved to the campus of First Baptist Church of Columbia. The entire staff there welcomed us. In fact, in many ways they partnered with us. First Baptist staff helped whenever and wherever possible. Staff members taught our students classes like P.E. and Chorus; the office staff helped with copying and mailings; the maintenance staff kept our classrooms neat and helped whenever we asked. There were staff who drove buses for us on field trips, cooked meals and delivered them, used patience when we were noisy or messy, and helped us practice with life skills like manners. Most importantly, they all ministered to Hope's staff, students and their families. This summer when it was time for us to pack up and move to Grace Christian School their staff helped again. To say thank you is not adequate, but we thank God for the heart of the people at First Baptist Church! Your compassion has had a lasting impact on all of the families who came through your doors to be a part of Hope. We know God will continue to bless the people at First Baptist Church of Columbia, and that you will continue to bless others. Again, we offer our heartfelt thanks.



The crew from First Baptist Church of Columbia who helped move Hope Christian Academy to our new location.

Meet
Ms. Kerr



We are pleased to have Jenny Kerr joining our faculty. She has been teaching for more than 15 years. She has two boys in college at North Greenville University. Their dog, a gift after her husband died, named Pinecone Jacksonson, keeps them busy with learning new tricks. Mrs. Kerr loves reading and art. She looks forward to helping all of the students at Hope grow “in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)

Exceptional SC Scholarships Uncertain

Exceptional SC Scholarships have been key to many families' ability to afford private education for their students with special education needs. 80% of the families enrolled at Hope are considered incumbents to the Exceptional SC scholarship program. Because of a clarification needed by the IRS, the ECENC was unable to fully fund incumbents for the 2019-2020 school year, and families who were not yet considered incumbents received no funding. This has been a challenge for our school as well as our families enrolled. The future of this scholarship program for the 2020-2021 school year is unclear. Hope relies on tuition and one annual fundraiser to meet our budget. If you are interested in supporting Hope this year there are many opportunities. 1) Support with your prayer, 2) Donate an item for the Annual Silent Auction, 3) Support families who may not receive their expected Exceptional SC scholarship funding this year. For more information on how to help, please visit our web-site, www.hcatoday.org.



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