

Don't Forget...

SAVE THE DATE

HCA Annual Fundraising Dinner and Auction
TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2019
6:00 pm
Ellis Hall
First Baptist Church

For more information on how you can donate please visit us at our website:

WWW.hcatoday.org/silent-auction-and-dinner



HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1306 HAMPTON STREET, COLUMBIA SC 29201

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OR VISIT WWW.HCATODAY.ORG

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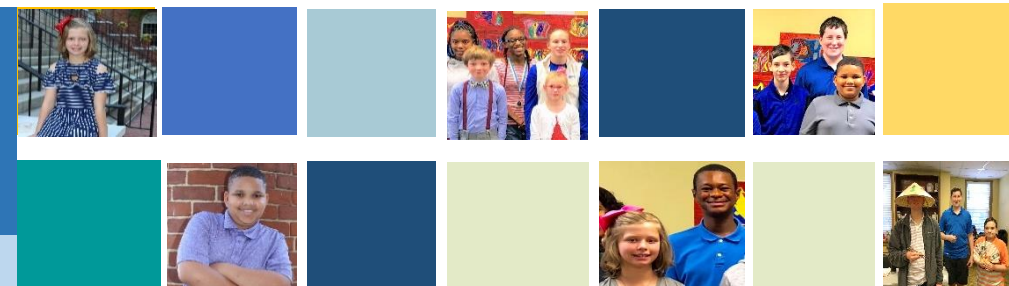
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Mushroom, Jason's Deli, Fancy That,
Subway Sumter St, Chick fil-A Forest
Drive, Monterrey Mexican Restaurant
Senate St, Pizza Hut Hampton St.,
Lizard's Thicket



HOPE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
2018-2019

News of

HOPE

Directors Corner:

Greetings to all!

This 2018-2019 school year is flying by, and lots of learning is going on here! Since HOPE began in 2007 with two students and one teacher, so many changes and success stories have happened. Enrollment is greater than it's ever been. We've added another classroom and teacher this year. Our senior, who is graduating this spring, is interning as an elementary tutor this semester. Students are reading better than ever, and study skills have improved for every student. There are four families who have visited and are interested in enrolling their students in the future. The four previous graduates are succeeding as well. Three are gainfully employed and one is finishing the Carolina Life Program at the University of South Carolina while also interning at a church. The goal of HCA is to enable each student to reach his/her full potential and become the adult that God desires him/her to be. The teachers at HCA creatively and patiently instruct academic subjects, social and life skills, as well as Biblical truths.

It is known that a child with learning disabilities is going to be an adult with learning disabilities. The bottom line is success can be obtained from: listening well and adhering to direct instruction, not quitting when skills become more difficult, and meeting/interacting with other peers and adults.

At HCA we are teaching the above strategies so that our awesome young people can be, and do, all that God has intended for them. He has amazing plans for them!

It is indeed a privilege and a blessing to be a part of educating these young people and seeing the difference these teachers are making in their lives.

- Jill Sinclair

Director



What's Coming up?

**HCA ANNUAL FUNDRAISING
DINNER AND SILENT ACTION
TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2019
6:00PM ELLIS HALL
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**SPRING BREAK
APRIL 19-26, 2019**

**HCA GRADUATION
MAY 24, 2019**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
MAY 30, 2019**

**SUMMER 2019
2019-2020 APPLICATIONS OPEN
FOR SCDOR SCHOLARSHIPS
[HTTPS://WWW.EXCEPTIONALSC
.ORG/APPLY/](https://www.exceptionalsc.org/apply/)**



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*For thou art my HOPE Lord God; Thou art my trust from my youth
Psalm 71:5*

One Family’s Testament to Hope . . .

by Laura Long

Garret Long came to Hope when he was in 3rd grade. He attended Hope for 9 years. He recently moved to Wyoming and his mother shared a heartfelt thank you to HCA...



Gratitude

We are so grateful we found Hope Christian Academy. My son Garrett was born at 28 weeks. He had brain bleeds shortly after birth due to his prematurity. As a result, learning, walking and talking, which many of us take for granted, were really hard for Garrett. Aggressive rehab and public school early intervention services helped Garrett learn to walk and talk.

Once we got to first grade however, Garrett was lost in the crowd. One teacher for 26 kids allowed little time for Garrett to receive the individualized approach he needed. After trying a couple of alternatives, we found Hope (literally and figuratively) where we enrolled Garrett for third grade. At Hope, Garrett had the small class size and direct instruction methods he needed. The patience and ability to proceed at Garrett's pace allowed Garrett to grow and thrive.

I had been told Garrett would never read or write. At Hope, Garrett has become fully functional at both. Because of the nurturing, guidance and community at Hope, Garrett has grown up to be a happy, confident, well-mannered young man with a kind heart and a strong relationship with God that guides him in life. We moved this past spring to Wyoming

for Garrett's senior year. Our family runs an all-inclusive dude ranch where Garrett is able to work and continue to grow. Our guests frequently comment on Garrett's kindness and sense of humor. He has been called "the heart of the ranch." At school, Garrett's teachers have admired his study habits and fund of general knowledge, all carefully fostered at Hope. They still marvel at how Garrett checks his work for mistakes, a habit their other students lack.

Garrett will be a successful adult. We are grateful for the kindness, warmth and patience of the teachers at Hope who nurtured him. We are grateful to the staff of First Baptist Church which wrapped Garrett and Hope in a community of support and love. None of us can do it alone. Because of Hope, we did not have to, for which we will be forever grateful.

Why HCA? >>>

Students Experience Success Every Day

The atmosphere at HCA is different from most schools. Students at Hope encourage their classmates to achieve in all subject areas. The students respect the adults and allow the teachers to TEACH. The environment here is positive, safe, and family oriented. In a word it is HOPE-FILLED

HCA gives HOPE to families whose students have not had favorable experiences in traditional classrooms. HCA gives HOPE to families whose students have “fallen through the cracks” in large classrooms or schools. HCA gives HOPE to families whose students are frustrated because their course-load is overwhelming. HCA gives HOPE to families who have had high educational expectations but minimal results. At Hope, every student experiences success every day.



Why Reading Matters in the Real World

According to the PBS Parents website, roughly 85% of children diagnosed with learning difficulties have a primary problem with reading and related language skills. Most children with reading disabilities can become proficient readers and can learn strategies for success in school and in the real world.

Have you ever considered the difficulties students would face in today’s society without knowing how to read? Reading is necessary to function today. Medicine bottles have to be read; road maps (yes, Google maps) have to be read; and day-to-day activities can become a source of frustration if someone cannot read. Reading is vital to getting a job. Applications have to be read. Benefits that are offered need to be read. Of course, correspondence is often necessary, so being able to read notes and memos is important. Reading skills are needed to take driving tests, read warning signs on roadways, follow a recipe and launder clothes.

Functional reading is important but reading has other benefits as well. Reading develops the mind. The mind is a muscle that must be exercised. Reading helps develop language skills, which include listening. We all know listening is fast becoming a lost art. Reading helps us discover new things.



Gabriel and Andrew enjoy a hands on experiment with our regular volunteer, Mrs. Dent

We live in an age where information overflows- on the internet as well as in books, magazines, and newspapers. We have to read to take advantage of all the information. Reading develops the imagination. TV and computer games have their place, BUT they are more for amusement. Amusements are non-thinking activities! With reading, a person can go anywhere in the world- or even out of it! The possibilities are endless.

At HCA, one big focus in our curriculum is reading. Our teachers use multiple learning strategies to help those who struggle become great readers. Whether reading classic literature or reading the nutritional labels on the back of a soup can, we teach the skills they need to succeed in their communities.



Did you know? >>>

Q: What type of diplomas does HCA offer?

HCA High School offers 3 types of diplomas:

• **Pre-Collegiate Diploma:** Students who have earned the South Carolina required 24 credits on his/her transcript.

A: • SC Certificate of Attendance: Students who want to pursue a vocation but do not complete the 24 credit requirement for a pre collegiate diploma.

• **SC Certificate of Completion:** Students who earn partial credit toward the 24 units required using adapted curricula.



Hands On Learning Works

Hope Christian Academy focuses on engaging our students using the direct instruction method of teaching. In addition, hands on classroom experiments and many study related field trips enhance our students learning in a positive way.

In The Classroom...

Students are more actively engaged when they *experience* an educational concept. Creative ways to engage students with the material is fundamental at HCA. The more we help students utilize ALL their senses in learning, the better it translates in to long term memory. These experiences help students connect the dots to the real world and helps them function better in it.



And in the Community...

At HCA, we are always focused on moving our students to be active and contributing members of their communities. Our small and nurturing environment allows us to model appropriate behavior in a non-threatening way. Students are prepared for the next steps of functioning or contributing successfully in the community.



On Location!

HCA takes many field trips throughout the year. These are just a few places you may see a student of HOPE:

FN America, Columbia Children’s Theatre, SC Fire Academy, JAARS, Richland County Public Library, Shaw Air Force Base, Billy Graham Library, Columbia Fire Flies Game, Fort Jackson Bowling Center, California Dreaming, Escape Plan, Challenger Space Center, SC Military Museum, Denver Downs Farm, Memorial Park and SC Vietnam War Memorial, Veterans Day Parade, Veterans Hospital



Joshua and Ethan enjoy their educational field trip to the Holocaust Memorial in downtown Columbia

Disability and Employment: Can It Work?



Research shows that the unemployment rate for people with disabilities remains double the rate for people without, and two-thirds of working-age disabled adults are not in the labor force at all, meaning they’re not working and not looking. Certainly some people with disabilities face unique challenges that can make employment more difficult. Transportation, communication, and misconceptions of capabilities are all things stated as hindrances for hiring individuals with disabilities.

We asked employers of our graduates if they could give us their perspective on hiring a person with a diagnosed disability. They answered readily. The owner of a local food processing plant employs one Hope graduate, Jack. He says Jack is enthusiastic about his job, and always in a good mood while working. The boss describes that when he is present, co-workers are less likely to be negative, maybe because they want to be a good influence. Another graduate, Harrison, is employed full time at Four Feathered Farms, a local farm that offers guided hunts for duck, quail, turkey and pheasants. Harrison is employed as a hunting guide and a hunting farm staffer. On a day-to-day basis he helps with maintenance and preparation of the land to attract wildlife. When hunts are scheduled, he assists as a guide and films for the hunters. His employer says that Harrison is mature and works well with guests who come for a hunting experience.

Walgreens is one national business known for their program for employing people with disabilities. Carlos Cubia, their chief diversity officer said: “It started out as something that was kind of socially responsible, but really turned into a high-productivity initiative, because these folks stay longer, don’t miss work, and retention of these employees is higher than folks without disabilities. It’s really helped the bottom line in a number of ways.”

All businesses should keep these positive comments in mind when faced with the prospect of hiring someone with a disability. You may find the benefits out-weigh any accommodations that are necessary.

SPECIAL NEEDS TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS VITAL

THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SPECIAL NEEDS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM CONTINUES TO AID FAMILIES ENROLLED AT HOPE.

The ECENC was created by the South Carolina General Assembly in 2013. In 2018 Governor Henry McMaster signed The Exceptional SC Law, which codified this into permanent law. This program allows donors to contribute toward a scholarship fund for students in South Carolina who meet the criteria for exceptional needs. The donations are eligible for a dollar for dollar credit on the donor’s

state income tax liability. These scholarships allow families to choose private educational institutions that are suited to help their students with a diagnosed learning disability when they otherwise might not be able to afford this option.

Each year incumbent students receive priority for scholarships. After incumbents are funded, new students enrolled in an approved school are considered. For the 2018-2019 school year the ECENC had a legislatively set cap of \$12 million dollars to fund tuition reimbursement and scholarships. They were able to

fund 1,600 incumbents. However, the 900 new applicants to the program did not receive funding.

In a recent email, we received word that the ECENC has approved a \$600 one-time scholarship for all families who were new applicants to the program for the 2018-2019 school year.

Funding for the 2019-2020 school year is not set. The Exceptional SC Board is developing support by the legislature to increase the funding tax credits so that all

special need students enrolled can receive scholarships.



To stay informed about this program go to: www.Exceptionalsc.org. There you can sign up for their newsletter and receive the most up to date information about becoming a donor or applying for a scholarship.

Quick facts >>>

4 Teachers

13 Students



100% of students receive some type of financial aid



1 of only 2 Christian South Carolina Schools that SOLELY enroll kids with learning disabilities.

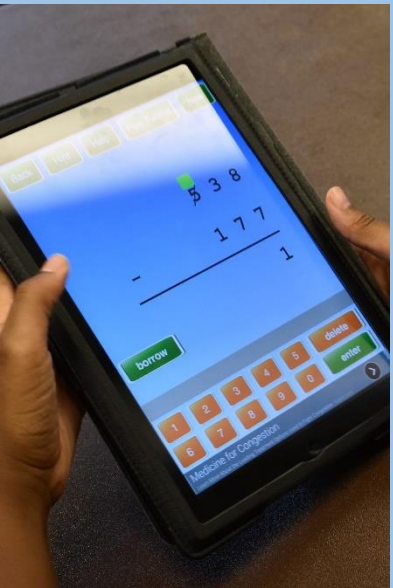
Over 100 combined years teaching experience

100% Of our Graduates are employed

100% Of our Classes utilize Technology daily

By the numbers >>>

15 Community Partners



10 Jobsite & Vocational Partners

3:1 Teacher to Student Ratio

How Do We Do It?

HCA could not do what it does without help. Like any nonprofit organization, HCA depends on contributions from our families, businesses, and community members.

We are proud of the fact that we have not raised tuition in 10 years. The ONLY fundraiser we host to bridge the gap between what is received in tuition and grants and yearly expenses is our Annual Fundraising Dinner and Silent auction. Will you prayerfully consider helping HOPE continue teaching these exceptional children?

Can you help? >>>
YES

- Donate an item to the Hope auction
- Make a Monetary donation to Hope
- Become a Job partner with Hope
- Become a Community Partner for Hope

For more information go to www.hcatoday.org

Caroline Dodd

Is algae considered a plant? Was the stock market crash the only cause of the Great Depression? How do you ask for directions in French? What exactly is slope intercept form in algebra? What is the proper way to interview for a job? These are all questions we are answering in our classes this year. We are exploring plants in biology, studying the major events and wars in U.S. history, learning the basics in French, deciphering algebra, and preparing for life after high school and college. We are planning a trip to the S.C. State House to see how our local legislature operates. We hope to sit in on a session there to see how laws are voted on and passed. Additionally, as we plan for the future, our senior student is working as a teacher’s assistant in one of our classrooms. This past fall she worked with children and babies in the nursery and preschool at First Baptist Church. She would love to work in a daycare or school setting when she graduates this spring. As you can see, we are busy this year and all of our students are engaged and learning a lot every day.

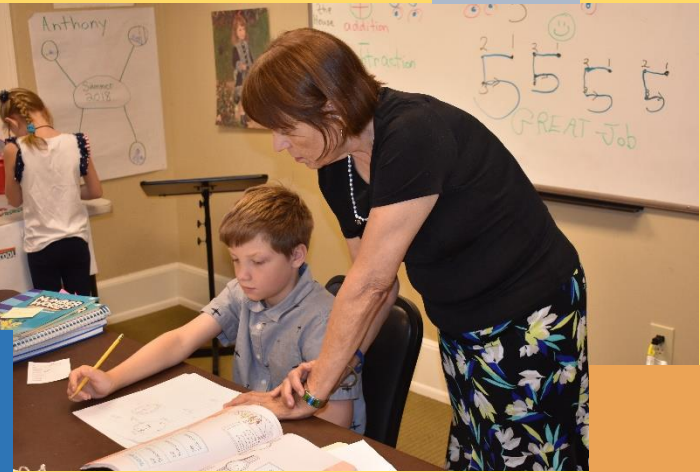
Frances McGraw

I have been a special needs teacher for forty years. This is my first year teaching at Hope and I must say, it has been such a rewarding experience as I watch the students’ progress and achieve their academic goals. The learning environment is truly unique. Hope provides small classes which allows students to receive small group and individual instruction that they require. Providing them with hands on activities reinforces the skills and concepts which are taught in the classroom. For example, the students in my math class are using apples and oranges to explore fraction concepts. Geography students are constructing travel brochures which increase knowledge of other places and cultures. Hope also has excellent support from the administration, First Baptist Church, and the community. Each of these factors ensure the success of the students.



Misty Harley

I have been teaching at Hope for three years, and I am greatly encouraged by the growth I have seen in our students. Because we are a Christian school we are able to integrate Biblical truths into many of our subjects. In our reading classes this year we studied Pilgrim’s Progress, which is an allegory of the Christian life. In geography, we are praying for missionaries around the world as we study longitude, latitude, the prime meridian, the equator, as well as countries, continents, oceans, and seas. It is a blessing to hear our students pray for others. At Hope, we are truly a team making a positive impact in the lives of our special students, giving them the tools they need to succeed.



Ella Shiver

My students really enjoy reading classical literature, and they are eagerly anticipating the completion of Pride and Prejudice. In morning devotions we are studying how to pray from the book of Matthew. My math students are studying Pre-Algebra, as well as problem solving. We are traveling the world in Geography. Every student is excited about Art Appreciation. Highlights include Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and Van Gogh. Our favorite so far has been Edgar Degas’s *The Little Dancer*. Students in my class are always encouraged to try. Our motto is, “We don’t make mistakes, just Happy Accidents!”



Sharmaine

Sharmaine is excited to be graduating in May. Upon graduation, her goal is to find a position as a teaching assistant at a day care or preschool. In preparation for this Sharmaine spends part of her day as an assistant in the elementary classroom and works with our youngest student, Lilyana. She is gaining valuable experience under Ms. McGraw’s guidance. Lilyana says she loves the reading they are doing together in class.



Anthony

Anthony says “I’m a learner. I love getting new knowledge.” Anthony enjoys all his classes at HCA, but especially anything to do with history and geography. He also likes retelling lessons or information that the teacher has shared with the classes. He remembers details that many other students would not catch. In Art Appreciation he enjoys copying, or drawing, very famous paintings that the class studies, and everyone can recognize what Anthony has drawn!



Joshua

Joshua is working towards returning to a larger classroom setting to complete his high school education. His favorite subject this year is US History. One fact he learned was that Franklin Delano Roosevelt is the only President to serve more than 2 terms in office. In fact, he began a fourth term, and died while in office.

Hayden

Hayden acknowledges the uniqueness of HCA. He says that the teachers and adapted curriculum have made all the difference in his learning process. The pace is so much better than at big schools. “The teachers make sure we ‘get it’ before they move on to the next lesson.” This is especially important in Algebra II, he stresses. In the future Hayden hopes to pursue a counseling profession, and he says seeing how the faculty and staff care about each student has helped lead him in this direction!

Ethan

Last year Ethan was homeschooled, and while he enjoyed that setting he’s glad to be making friends with the students at Hope. Art Appreciation class is a favorite subject, as well as designing his own projects in art. In biology class he was especially interested in learning how scientists discovered that the bark from the yew tree produces Taxol, which is used in medications to kill cancer cells

Liz

This is Liz’s first year at HCA, and she loves being here. “Everyone is so kind at this school,” she says, and “there’s no drama!” She is so glad we’re reading “great stories” in literature that she’s heard about, but never read. Her favorite subject is World Geography, and she is looking forward to studying Portugal because her sister has visited there. Liz has volunteered to bring us Portuguese food when we “arrive in that country!”

Thomas

This is Thomas’ first year at Hope, and he enjoys the friendly atmosphere. He said that practicing making fractions with oranges and Hershey bars really helped him understand it better, and he liked getting to eat his work. Thomas loves technology! He would like to work on developing games someday.



Keonjel

This is Keonjel’s second year at HCA, and she loves it! School at Hope is fun as well as educational. She can tell that her study habits have improved because she’s making better grades here. The individual attention and small groups make all the difference for her. She says “In literature we read wonderful books that are classics, and it makes us want to get better and better at reading. Math is my favorite subject because Ms. Shiver lets me do a lot of calculations on the dry erase board, which makes me feel like a teacher. In fact, I think I’d like to be a teacher when I grow up!”

Lilyana

Lilyana has the distinction of being the youngest student at Hope! She loves being at school with friends. She is working hard in her math and reading classes. She works hard because she loves to earn points for each class. For all of her hard work she earns time for working on puzzles, and she’s a gifted puzzle maker!

Andrew

Andrew is enjoying many of his subjects this year, including math, writing, and Bible class. His geography class is really enjoyed learning how to read maps. He especially likes to find the locations of the missionaries his class prays for on the map. Someday Andrew would like to work on trains.

Chase

Chase is excited to be in high school this year! He is enjoying geography class and learning about the seven continents. Of all the places they have studied he says that Antarctica is one area he would like to see the most because of the penguins and seals that live there.

Peyton

Peyton’s favorite subject this year is her writing class. Her math class is working on division right now. One thing Peyton learned in geography that surprised her is that the driest place on earth is in Antarctica! Peyton would like to work on a farm in the future.

Gabriel

Gabriel is excited about P.E. this year, and says their games of kickball and soccer are a real treat after working hard in academic classes. His geography class is studying the continents, and he has really enjoyed learning more about Europe. Gabriel thinks he might like to be a teacher someday.

