



Trumpeter

CVCA ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE

FALL/WINTER 2023

**Retreat
Week 2023!**



Trumpeter

DECEMBER 2023

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Submit with alumni news and suggestions for **The Echoes** at cvcaroyals.org/alumni. Please include graduation year(s) and maiden names. Photos should be the highest resolution possible and submitted as attachments. CVCA reserves the right to edit alumni news for clarity, appropriateness, and space limitations.

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On the Cover:

This year, every grade kicked off the school year with a class retreat. This new tradition has had a great impact on class unity and student growth. Learn more on page 11.



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Don't Get Left Out

In an effort to be responsible stewards and being conscious of paper waste and mailing costs, we recently edited our Trumpeter mailing list to eliminate duplicate copies to a single household. If you would like to add an additional address to our mailing list or if you would rather receive the *Trumpeter* via email, please email media@cvcaroyals.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Flourishing...

"The school really seems like it is flourishing!" We hear this at CVCA quite a bit these days. It certainly sounds wonderful and refreshing, but what do WE mean when we say that our desire is for our faculty, staff, and students to flourish?

A glance at stated definitions of flourishing include: grow, prosper, bloom, blossom, develop, do well, expand, multiply, succeed, thrive, amplify, arrive, increase, bear fruit, go great, and hit it big.

Those words are wonderfully positive, and I am humbled that anyone can easily see an abundance of all those inspiring verbs through the halls of CVCA and in the pages of this *Trumpeter*. Still, true flourishing has to be more than the world's definition. Don't get me wrong, I would sign up for that type of flourishing every day, but it has to be deeper than what I would describe as "successfully increasing in the eyes of man."

Spending a little time in the Psalms, our eyes (and hearts) can begin to see what true flourishing looks like and how we might genuinely flourish amid the whirlwind and chaos of our culture and the pace of our busyness, lists, successes, failures, distractions, and worries.

Psalm 1:3 tells us: *That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.*

Psalm 92:12-14 encourages us: *The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green...*

And, of course, Psalm 23 reminds us:

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

It's not a coincidence that *Cultivating* is a massive part of our mission. While we break up the soil to prepare for growth, where are we planting ourselves, our hopes, and our faith? In our success? In our efforts? May we step back and recognize that our flourishing comes from the gift of being planted in God's presence. Let us live in the peace and knowledge that we flourish when we live out this Truth.

So, as we celebrate all of the wonderful things that are going on at CVCA as witnessed through these pages, let us do so with the understanding of biblical flourishing...which allows us to say "thank you, Lord" as we direct all Glory to Him, the source of all true flourishing.



All to Him I Owe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Spodnik". Below the signature, the name "Jason Spodnik '88" is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Jason Spodnik '88

SEMESTER IN REVIEW

August 2023

FIRST-EVER SENIOR PARKING SPOT PAINT DAY



For the first time in the history of CVCA, seniors were allowed to purchase, design, and paint their very own parking spots for the 2023-2024 school year! Creations ranged from inspirational verses, cheery pops of colors, athletic jersey numbers, and mural-style artistic impressions. The initial day of painting has turned into little spots of joy each time the parking spots are viewed.

PARENT COFFEES



First impressions mean so much. They can pave the way for established trust, continued conversation, shared experiences, and connections. Parent Coffees held during Retreat Week drop-offs created a space for that to happen!

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREATS



CVCA middle schoolers start the school year with a class retreat to Camp Carl.

The sixth-grade Ignition trip was the biggest yet, with 108 new students. It's a great time for the classmates to get to know each other and their teachers, and to start the school year with a good dose of fun and new friendships.

JR. ROYALS BIG TENT EVENT



The Junior Royals Club hosts several events each year, but The Big Tent Event is the largest. This year the event was held in the Royals Fieldhouse, allowing plenty of room for the 300 attendees to enjoy games, inflatables, and treats.

September 2023

NEW FAMILY TAILGATE



The beginning of the year marks the transition of our new families into an established part of the Royals family. This year, nearly 400 people attended a special evening of football, food trucks, and fellowship. Complete with special treats like VIP end-zone seating and Royals swag, the evening was a great way to kick off new relationships.

SPIRIT WEEK

The week leading up to Homecoming '23 was filled with color and excitement. Joy radiated from the halls of CVCA with themes like Class Color Day, Twin Day, Neon Day, and the student favorite, "Anything But a Backpack"



Day. Enthusiasm didn't just end with dressing up – the entire student body also engaged in a service project that donated approximately 1,200 pounds of clothing and personal care items to Haven of Rest Ministries.

HOMECOMING COURT



Our student body elected the Homecoming 2023 Court which consisted of sophomores Joey Kopec and Bailey Carroll, juniors Alex Cook, Ryan Wiehe, Amy Beebe, and Gabby Wilcox, and seniors Ty Bova, Hayden Grant, Ricky Levak, Gavin Puhala, Quinn Robinson, Lauren Brookes, Bria Bucciarelli, Avery Helwig, Desi Kafantaris, and Grace Kopec. Voting for the King and Queen also included the faculty and staff and resulted in Ty and Grace being crowned King and Queen. A hearty Royals congratulations to the entire Court!

HOMECOMING DANCE



With artistry and flair, many hands contributed to making the Homecoming Dance a true "Glow Up!" The neon theme accentuated the already bright

spirits ready to celebrate this fun junior and senior tradition. This year, the dancing was accompanied by games, s'mores, food trucks, and a glow-in-the-dark putt putt course. Our students were Shining Bright Under Neon Lights!

October 2023

ROBOTICS TEAM SUCCESS



The Royal Technic Robotics Team competed at Grove City College in the BEST Robotics Hub competition. CVCA's team of 6th-12th graders won three first place finishes, one second, one third, and first place in the BEST Overall Award. The team is now preparing for the Regional Championships.

November 2023



LIP SYNC BATTLE

This time-honored tradition occurs each year in mid-November and always delights. Two groups from each House face each other, armed with good humor, great costumes, and crowd-engaging song choices to entertain the audience... and win. This year's winners, Candace Xutan, Roman Kline-Bossman, and Sienna Vitt, belonged to the repeat champion Douglass House! Congrats to all who participated.

MINUTE TO WIN IT

Middle school students made the most of every second during the Minute To Win It Games held in mid-November. Our



creative faculty and staff balance the rigor of academics with plenty of opportunities to let loose and laugh! Sometimes, in place of Connections groups, the students meet as a whole to engage in friendly competitions like these.

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN



The Intro. to Design class completed an impressive project of vintage-style travel posters. Students chose a real or fictional location that meant something to them. Several of the posters will be framed and displayed at Summit Christian School and six have been selected to be professionally reproduced and auctioned at the Royal Evening in March.

GRANDPARENTS DAY



The love of CVCA is SO big that Grandparents Day became Grandparents Days. The total number of students and grandparents participating in the two days exceeded 800 participants. That's a lot of love! And we're here for it!

ROYAL THEATRE FALL PLAY

The frivolity and festive attire of *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*



complemented the well-timed lines and laughter brought about by another talented cast, performance after performance. When a would-be archery tournament changed to bowling, the audience was on pins and needles! Thanks, Royal Theater, for leading us to a happily-enough-ever-after.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONNECTIONS



On occasion, smaller Connections groups combine for one large middle school assembly divided into boys and girls. The ladies enjoyed cocoa, music, and conversation before participating in a meaningful, cheerful activity that demonstrated what it can feel like to be embraced and welcomed by known friends, new friends, and most of all, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE



On November 14, the Choir and Royal Ringers performed for the Annual Christmas Tree Festival at the John S. Knight Center to benefit the Akron Children's Hospital.



Reflecting on the Generosity that Allows Students to Flourish at CVCA

A Note of Thanks from John Harabedian, Director of Development

The Christmas season always causes us to reflect upon the indescribable gift of God's Son, given to redeem us and bring us back into a right relationship with the triune God. We are thankful for the mercy and grace we have received through faith in the Lord Jesus.

The Campaign for Mission Advancement

The holiday season also causes us to reflect upon the generosity of our CVCA Community members, who continue to support this school through heartfelt donations to the many projects that aren't funded through tuition dollars. As we look back, there is much to be thankful for, particularly the \$6.7 million in pledge's received towards our Campaign for Mission Advancement. The project to build ten new classrooms and additional learning spaces is under construction and will allow us to welcome another 100 students for the 2024-2025 school year.

Giving Tuesday

Community support for CVCA's annual Giving Tuesday event remained strong

as our Community came out in large numbers to give out of the overflow of their hearts. Giving Tuesday helps bridge the gap between tuition and the full cost of providing a CVCA experience, which is about \$1,000 per student annually. This year, Giving Tuesday raised over \$250,000 – the highest amount yet for this event! Thank you!

Year-End Giving

Additionally, did you know it's not too late to consider donating to CVCA before the calendar year ends? Some families have chosen to donate a portion of the amount they unexpectedly received from the state of Ohio for tuition this year (via new EdChoice opportunities). They felt led to share some of this provision with CVCA to be used for the flourishing of the school and faculty they love so much.

Donating Opportunity that Costs You Nothing

Finally, don't forget to take advantage of the Ohio tax credit that literally costs you nothing while benefitting CVCA. Effectively, you direct the state to use a portion of your state tax liability to

support CVCA. When you designate up to \$1,500 to CVCA through a Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO), you get an immediate tax credit of the same amount on your 2023 state tax return. You can take advantage of this opportunity now through the Ohio Christian Education Network (OCEN). New tax rules allow you to make that donation as late as April 15, 2024 and still receive the tax credit for 2023. Scan this QR code to learn more about this opportunity and to get your SGO tax credit today.



As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome in the New Year, please pray that CVCA will continue to be a place that will flourish under God's providential care. May He continue to equip students and faculty alike, as He grows us by His Spirit, to be an aroma of Christ that will impact our friends and neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Have you heard of CVCA's Annual Fund?

We take a family's investment in a CVCA education very seriously and understand the sacrifices many make to provide that education for their child. In light of that understanding, it is important to us to keep CVCA accessible to families while also maintaining the high standards of academic excellence we have always aimed for as a college-prep institution.

This commitment to accessibility results in a tuition number unequal to the actual cost of a CVCA education. In reality, the annual cost of Educating and Cultivating a single student at CVCA is approximately \$1,000 more than the yearly tuition rate. To fill this

financial gap, we rely on The Annual Fund, supported solely by gifts from our generous community of parents, friends, and alumni.

Gifts to CVCA's Annual Fund fuel the exceptional learning opportunities across academics, extra-curriculars, athletics, and the arts that provide our students with the skills and ability they will need to make a difference in the world.

CVCA programs that exist due to the Annual Fund include the Schools of Distinction and Jterm/Mterm, Student Ministries, and the many clubs and extra-curriculars that allow students to



flourish while pursuing their interests and talents beyond the classroom. The Annual Fund allows us to maintain our library and labs and provides the means necessary to pursue the latest technology and innovative academic opportunities.

CVCA's Annual Fund is key to fulfilling CVCA's mission of *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ*. Please join us in keeping CVCA both accessible and excellent. To donate today, go to cvcaroyals.org/annual-fund.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR MISSION ADVANCEMENT



The Excitement is Growing!

The Campaign for Mission Advancement Construction Update



The main hall of the new wing is now visible. This corridor will connect the existing Science and English hallways.



This view from the back of campus shows the size of the addition and the area of the much needed new pick-up and drop-off location.

We are pleased to update you on the tremendous progress being made on the **Campaign for Mission Advancement (CMA)** building expansion.

The excitement at CVCA is evident as students, families, faculty, and staff watch the rapid changes taking place with the CMA building project. After just a few months of construction, we can now get a glimpse of what the new wing will look like and how it will enhance our campus.

We will soon be under roof, and with shelter from the winter weather, we expect to make good progress on the interior formation of these new classrooms – a bit like the interior formation we know the Lord is doing in the hearts and minds of the students He entrusted to our care.

With the weather cooperating, the project is on schedule to welcome students to campus at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

Thank you to the many who faithfully support all the Lord is doing at CVCA. If you would like more information on how you can contribute to the **Campaign for Mission Advancement**, please visit cvcaroyals.org/missionadvancement.

“This school is a gift!”

– Michael Hopkins, grandfather of 7th grader and 2022 alum



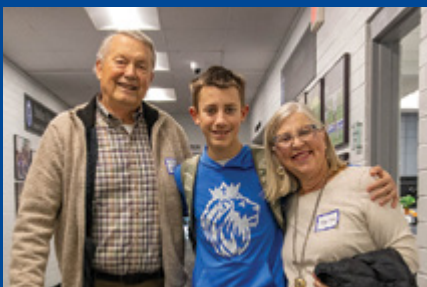
Celebrating Grandparents Days – Two of Them!

There's no more joyous day on the CVCA campus than Grandparents Day! Because of increased student enrollment, this year, for the first time, the school was blessed to host TWO Grandparents Days on November 20 and 21.

With over 500 grandparents and students on site each day, the hallways were bustling with conversation, smiles, and laughter as the students gave grandparents a small peek into their school day. The opportunity to reflect on the differences between now and when they attended high school amazed many grandparents and allowed them to share their memories with their grandchildren. While attending shortened class periods, meeting teachers, and exploring the classrooms and enhanced facilities with their students, grandparents gained a greater understanding of how CVCA excels at *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ*. Closing the morning was a program of devotional time with CVCA President Jason Spodnik as they lifted the school and their grandchildren in prayer.

“I attended Grandparents Day and had such a wonderful time. I so enjoyed meeting some of my grandson's teachers. It is such a good feeling knowing that he is in such a wonderful, caring, and spiritual environment!”

– Mary Ann Michal,
Grandmother of 9th Grader



Celebrating God's Faithfulness
to CVCA... A Miracle of Grace

25TH ANNUAL
ROYAL
evening
March 9
2024

The Royal Evening is a community-wide event and the largest single fundraiser for the Annual Fund, which directly benefits every CVCA student. This year, we are excited to celebrate the 25th Annual Royal Evening on Saturday, March 9, 2024. This is an evening of great fun, delicious food, exciting silent and life auctions, sweet fellowship, and a joyous celebration of what God is doing at His school.

Don't miss the biggest night of the year for the CVCA Community. There are many ways to get involved: HOST a table, become a SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER, DONATE an auction item, and more! For more information on any of these opportunities, please get in touch with Kristin Nichols at knichols@cvcaroyals.org.

VOLUNTEER SPONSOR DONATE ATTEND



Cultivating Middle School Servants for Christ!

What can happen when you harness the energy and enthusiasm of 130 CVCA seventh graders? “You plant a forest,” observed Josh Bates of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. On a beautiful fall day, our seventh-grade students hiked into the park and planted 260 trees in one morning. This project was part of the CVNP’s initiative to re-forest areas over-run by invasive species or acquired as new park land. Both students and teachers enjoyed digging into this opportunity to take care of God’s creation.

Every year, CVCA Bible teachers encourage their classes to serve at least 16 hours every school year at places like churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations that rely on volunteer help. Our service learning requirement is designed to help students practice being the hands and feet of Jesus as they care for the people and the things He created.

The sixth graders enjoyed some great serving experiences at Camp Carl, Haven of Rest, and Open M. Camp Carl has been an enormous blessing to the CVCA middle school, and it was a joy to serve them by cleaning up trails and grounds. Camp Carl’s Mike Potts said: “I cannot believe how much work this group of young men got done! The amount of large and small branches and limbs they moved into 4- and 5-foot-high piles was astonishing!” The sixth-grade girls went to Haven of Rest, where they made beds, set tables, and served food for the residents.



“Our service requirement is designed to help students practice being the hands and feet of Jesus as they care for the people and the things He created.”



Middle School Welcomes Its First Assistant Principal

We are pleased to introduce our new Middle School Assistant Principal, **Miss Sarah Telepak**. With the growing numbers of our middle school enrollment, we want to ensure we have the staff to support our teachers and, ultimately, our families. We are blessed to have Miss Telepak on our team. Her experience in middle school administration brings much-needed support to our Middle School Office.

Miss Telepak shared: “One of the many amazing aspects of God is how He uses the Holy Spirit to direct, guide, speak, and lead each of us in our Christian walk if we trust and depend on Him. God’s leading is evident in my journey to CVCA as He has worked in unexpected ways, preparing, developing, and challenging me in my love for Christian education. Ultimately, showing students that God desires to have the same active relationship with them is my heart’s desire and calling. It is my humble honor to be a part of creating and composing new avenues that *Educate and Cultivate* middle school students into their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual capabilities as *Servants for Christ*.”

THRIVE

Belong, Connect, and Know

We are committed to both *Educating AND Cultivating Servants for Christ*. As a college-prep institution, we strive for the highest level of *Educating* daily. But what are some ways we experience *Cultivating*? CVCA students are offered numerous extra-curricular programs, social events, and service options. While many students do participate in these school-wide opportunities, we have found that the most effective method of *Cultivating* happens through relationships, time, and shared interests on a smaller level. Think of the disconnected student – the quiet student in a classroom or the young man or woman sitting alone in the Cafeteria. What do they need, and how can we help? We believe that all students need a place to BELONG, a friend to CONNECT with, a person who KNOWS them, and the TIME to make these happen.

This year, we have introduced **THRIVE**, an intentional break from the regular academic curriculum for students and faculty to connect over particular shared interests. With the rise of mental health issues among teenagers and the desire to create meaningful relationships with and among our students, this program provides a pause from the rigor of the school day. It allows students to relax while enjoying an activity they choose in a non-teaching environment.

THRIVE days occur on the last Thursday of each month. Faculty and staff members offer an activity/topic that they enjoy, and students choose from the options, taking into consideration time with their friends, the topic, and the teacher. Because individuals find relaxation and refreshment in different ways, the **THRIVE** options include a range of activity levels – some quiet and calming and others more energetic and physical. This fall's THRIVE options included:

High School:

- Bananagrams with Mrs. McGough
- Trail Time with Mrs. Hartman & Mrs. Thompson (Hike local trails)
- Coloring and Cocoa with Mrs. Rymer
- 3 vs. 3 Basketball & Dunk Competition with Mr. Fairchild & Mr. Herblet
- Cartoons and Cereal with Mr. Ling
- Pause with Paws with Mrs. Meybaum, Mrs. Hyatt, & Mrs. Porter (Interact and relax with dogs)
- Ukulele Jam Session with Mrs. Moore
- Graffiti with Mr. Fairfax
- Coffee House with Mrs. Meszaros & Miss Heginbotham (Listen to music, read a book, catch up with friends)
- Open Art Studio with Mrs. McSparran & Miss Slovisky
- Reading Corner with Mrs. DiPaolo
- Catch Some ZZZZs with Mrs. Riordan (Relax with soft music & dim lighting)
- Pickleball with Mrs. Crocker
- Puzzlepalooza with Mrs. Miller
- Mario Games with Mr. Paisley

Middle School:

- Page Turners with Miss Jones & Mrs. Marosi (Read and/or write in a calm, relaxing setting)
- Wii Tennis with Mr. Ramay
- Song and Dance with Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Brown, & Mrs. Willison (Karaoke and line dancing)
- Calming Coloring with Miss Shedden & Mrs. Blatchford
- Shooting Hoops with Mr. Knab & Mr. Muklewicz
- S'Mores with Mr. Samsonas & Mr. Gifford (Build a fire & cook s'mores)
- Jamming with Jewelry Making with Miss Bowers & Miss Peters
- Girls Workout with Mrs. Spodnik
- Sharpie Shenanigans with Miss Neufeld (Tie dye shoes with Sharpies)
- Dodgeball with Mr. Charvat
- Open Art Studio with Mrs. Tepley
- Battle Chess and Nintendo Switch Fun with Mr. Churchill



Retreat Week

CVCA started JumpStart over twenty years ago. The three-day seventh grade retreat at the beginning of the school year allows students to make new friends and meet teachers while engaging in action-packed camp activities. With intentional time dedicated to worshipping, praying, and studying scripture together, students are challenged to grow closer to the Lord and one another. Over time, retreats were added for sixth, eighth, and ninth grades, and it became apparent that these events were having an impact on the unity of each class and the spiritual and social growth of the students. Because of that, this year, for the first time, every class, grades 6-12, held a retreat at Camp Carl during the first week of school. Upper classmen were encouraged to lead, and underclassmen and middle-school students were encouraged to explore all God has for them during their time at CVCA. This week was memorable for all and is sure to become a favorite school tradition.



I was really scared when I came to CVCA, but Jumpstart encouraged me to meet new people and grow closer to God. The high school mentors were a shoulder to cry on and so encouraging. They were my mentors but became my friends. – Amelia, 7th Grade

It was nice to get to know the 8th graders, worship with them, and see God work in their lives. I had the opportunity to share my testimony and show them they have someone on their side.

– Virginia, Senior and 8th Grade Retreat Leader





After Jumpstart, I just knew
CVCA was my new home!
– Grace, 7th Grade

God was evident on our retreat.
No one was shy about talking about
God and we could see Him working.
– Hayden, Senior

I feel that Launchpoint led me
closer to God. It helped me
understand why He loves me and
helped me learn more about Him.
– Eli, 8th Grade



Please Welcome CVCA's New Student Life Coordinator

We are thrilled to welcome **Bre Hartman** as our new Student Life Coordinator.

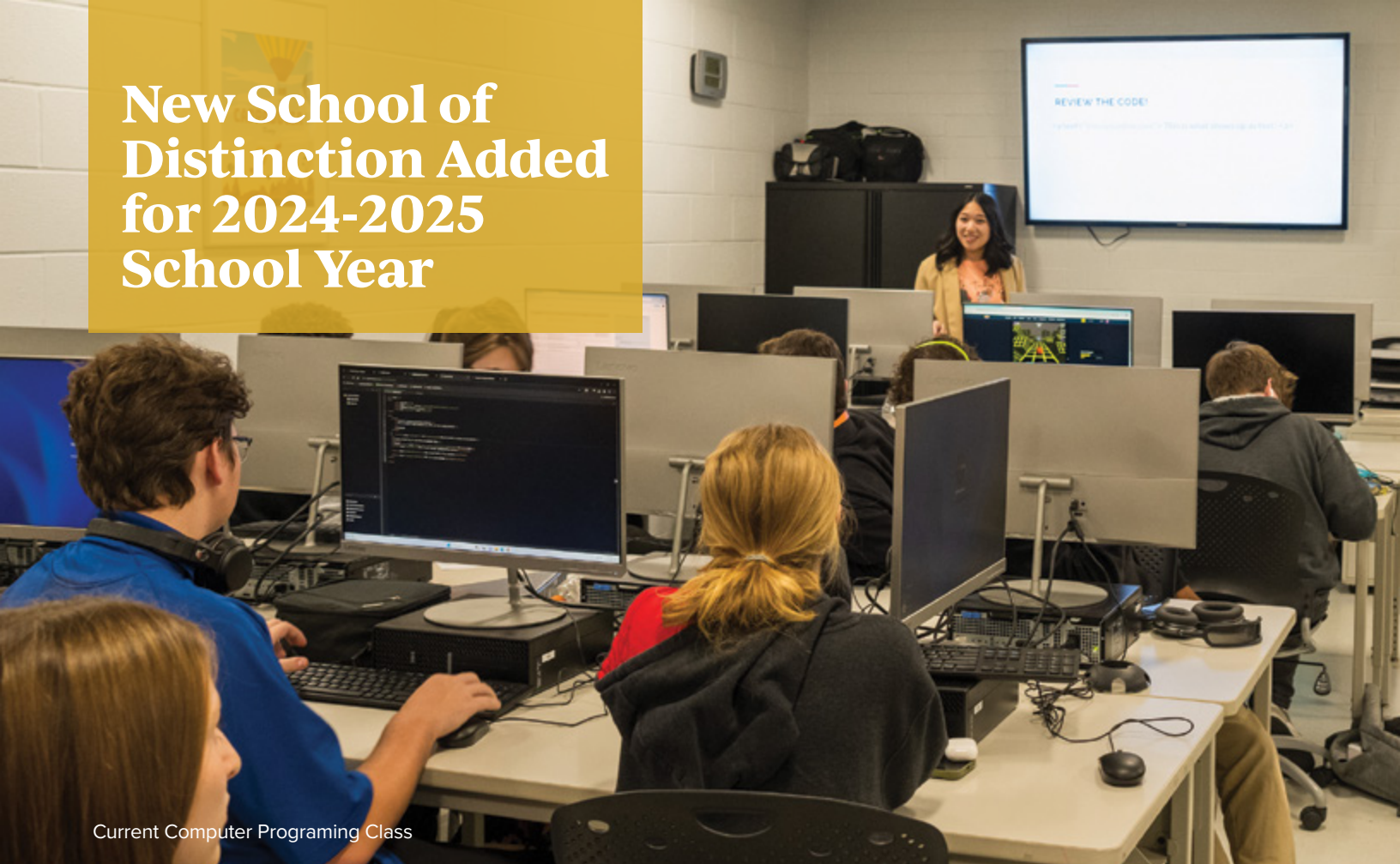
Bree Shared: My position at CVCA is unique in that I do a variety of work. One day I'm planning an event, and then the next, I am hosting it. I love people, and it is fun to work with a variety of students, teachers, and staff. I help coordinate many fun activities for students, like Thrive, Homecoming, Prom, retreats, and many more. One of my favorite things about my new role is seeing students' reactions when they attend an event we have planned.



I first came to CVCA four years ago as the 8th-grade volleyball coach, which I still do today. I wanted to work at the same place I coached to be closer to my athletes. Over the past four years, I have learned even more about CVCA's mission and appreciate the value of Christian relationships built here.

I love being able to interact with students daily. This consistent involvement allows me to help students in many aspects of life. Sometimes, it's a conversation about their future or questions about everyday life. I am grateful that working in this ministry allows me to share my faith with students and encourage them in their walk with God.

New School of Distinction Added for 2024-2025 School Year



Current Computer Programming Class



CVCA is excited to announce the addition of a new School of Distinction – the **School of Computer Science (SOCS)**. As the computer technology industry continues to grow and evolve at an increasingly rapid rate, we have seen the need for such a program to best prepare our students for college and their future careers.

The School of Computer Science is a two-year curriculum designed to grow high school students to be successful, impactful Christians in an undergraduate computer science program. The curriculum will touch on several major computer science disciplines and allow students to dive deeper into areas of interest through individualized projects, guest lectures, Jterm/Mterm opportunities, and connections with mentors, area universities, and local companies. The SOCS courses will include newer areas of study that are certain to be in demand for today's students as they enter college, such as Cybersecurity, Mobile Apps, and Advanced Game Design. As seniors, SOCS students will develop a capstone project representing their total Computer Science experience and demonstrating their mastery of skills learned, preparing them even further for their upcoming college studies.

CVCA's Schools of Distinction program provides an innovative opportunity for students to explore areas of interest and potential college majors and career fields. Designed for juniors and seniors, the two-year curriculum is in addition to CVCA's rigorous college-prep curriculum. The program includes:

- Curricular enhancements (extra classes in a specific field)
- Mentoring relationships and community partnerships (mentoring, community projects, field trips, etc.)
- Experiential learning (internships, shadowing, competitions, guest lecturers, projects, etc.)

The following Schools are currently part of the SOD program: Arts and Humanities, Business and Entrepreneurship, Computer Science, Engineering, Medical Professions, and Ministry.



Inviting Students to “Come and See”

Every year, we choose a book of the Bible to study in Chapel. This becomes the CVCA Chapel Banner for the year. In the Old Testament, a banner was something to rally under. So even though our CVCA community attends over 150 different churches, lives all over NE Ohio, and comes from many different backgrounds, ultimately, the banner we rally under is Jesus Christ. This year, we are studying the Gospel of John with the banner “Come and See.”

While most of us are familiar with Jesus, this year’s banner invites us to take a fresh look at the Savior. Sometimes, we can glaze over the stories about His life because we’ve heard them before, but this year, we are slowing down to take a closer look.

“Come and See” comes from a story in the first chapter of the Gospel of John. After hundreds of years of waiting and hoping, the long-awaited Messiah finally arrived. As news spread about Jesus, friends told other friends. In John 1, Philip almost couldn’t keep the news to himself, so he sought out his friend Nathanael. Philip found Nathanael and said, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” Nathanael responded, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see” (John 1:45-46). Nazareth was a no-name town. To Nathanael, nothing significant came from there. Jerusalem, maybe... but not Nazareth. And yet his friend, Philip, invited him to “Come and See” for himself. It’s an invitation to come and experience Jesus.

For those wrestling with doubt, Jesus invites you to experience who He is. At the end of the Gospel of John, Jesus extends His

hands to a doubter named Thomas and invites him to “Come and See” that He is who He says He is.

Come and See... Jesus’ care for the outcast.

Come and See... Jesus’ holiness and grandeur.

Come and See... Jesus’ compassion for people.

Come and See... the forgiveness He offers for sinners like you and me.

Come and See... how He can restore things that are broken.

Come and See... how He has conquered death and offers eternal life.

Come and See... the one who both fully knows and loves you.



In October, we were excited to welcome Alistair Begg, Senior Pastor of Parkside Church, to speak in Chapel.



Huzzah! Huzzah!

The Royal Theatre Experience Impacts Students Beyond their Time on the Stage

Throwing plungers across the stage and screaming for help behind bars is fun, but that isn't everything being a part of The Royal Theater has to offer. The steps leading to the performance are as important as the finished product. Every day, we rehearse, learn, improve, develop amazing relationships, and have a ton of fun. Talking to cast members of all ages has been an amazing learning experience and opportunity for me. Throughout the course of our rehearsals, I was given the opportunity to be both a leader and a servant for the cast. I believe that serving others is one of the most important parts of our walk with God, and being able to help my cast mates with anything they might need was the most important part of participating in the show!

– Senior Will Cook played Little John in the Royal Theatre's 2023 Fall Play, *The Somewhat True Tail of Robin Hood*. The comedic production was a hit with both the Theatre participants and the audiences.



CELEBRATED ATHLETES – FALL 2023

ROYALS FOOTBALL HAS HEART!

Royals Football is committed to serving beyond CVCA Athletics. Each season, they look for ways to bless other football programs and share the love of Christ with others. This year, the Royals were excited to reach out in some exciting ways.

When the JV team played Akron North early in the season, some North coaches mentioned that it is not uncommon for the coaches to buy food or clothes for their players due to the needs in their lives. As an act of encouragement to these coaches and through the generosity of Royals Football supporters, the Royals provided the Akron North team with a team meal catered and delivered from Jimmy's Backyard BBQ in Cuyahoga Falls. Royals Football has also learned that North has some basic equipment needs. Now, a group of Royals family, friends, and supporters has plans to provide North with a clothes dryer for their locker room early in the offseason.

Royals Football also partnered with Chardon by participating in a local food drive for military veterans in the Chardon area. Our families' response was incredible. The food drive ministry told us that we were the only opponent in the four years they have been doing this to be willing to participate. We were also blessed with the opportunity to pray with a young man in their community who had recently been dealt some challenging health news.



Thank you, Royals, for exemplifying a servant attitude for our school.

SENIOR ATHLETES

Cheer:

Kori Bettinger
Tra'nhai Henderson
Camdyn Hodas
Grace Kopec
Jaden Neumeyer
Lena Sprinzl

Boys Cross Country:

Cody Anderson
Anthony Ezzone
Gavin Johnson
Xavier Maianu
Lucas Mitchell
Gavin Puhala
Quinn Robinson

Girls Cross Country:

Alissa Kipp
Kayla Ritzman
Bella Wilcox

Football:

Ty Bova
Matthew Coles
Hayden Grant
Ricky Levak
Michael Lewis
Logan Scranton
Nathan Wagner
Dillon Webb
Luke Wiggers

Boys Golf:

Bryce Gatten
Reagan Sines
Andrew Tanner

Girls Golf:

Morgan Joy
Sydney Sherman

Boys Soccer:

Nate Heidinger
Kyle Spodnik
Josh Sumodi
JP Vasko
Carson Weaver

Girls Soccer:

Sam Londrico
Maya Najjar
Courtney Patton
Kate Rayer
Sam Williams

Girls Tennis:

Libby Cain
Camryn Hitchcock
Camille Perkins
Lilly Santuomo
Kya Shelford

Volleyball:

Bria Bucciarelli
Abby Hayes
Lexie McIlroy
Marissa O'Keefe

ATHLETE AWARDS

ALL-STATE

Jayna Cooley – Cross Country
Joey Kopec – 3rd Team
All-State, Football
Ricky Levak – Honorable
Mention All-State, Football
Kyle Spodnik – 2nd Team,
Boys Soccer

STATE QUALIFIERS

Girls Cross Country:

Jayna Cooley
Kayla Ritzman
Lizzie Dolan
Josey Blackburn
Brielle Varney
Greta Bigham
Bella Wilcox

REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Boys Cross Country:

Micah Colbert
Noah Mammone
Alex Robinson
Robbie Akins
Andrew Clark
Max Khalil
Gavin Johnson

Girls Cross Country:

Jayna Cooley
Kayla Ritzman
Lizzie Dolan
Josey Blackburn
Brielle Varney
Greta Bigham
Bella Wilcox

DISTRICT QUALIFIERS

Boys Golf:

Andrew Tanner
Andrew Van Hala
Carter Klein
Bryce Gatten
Cord Steigmeier

Girls Tennis:

Amy Grace Beebe
Kyla Moore
Grace Saffles

ALL-DISTRICT

Player of the Year –
Reese Donahoe, Volleyball

Coach of the Year –
Brian McKnight, Volleyball

1st Team:

Kyle Spodnik, Boys Soccer
Jack Green, Boys Soccer
Ben Reske, Boys Soccer
Sam Anderson, Girls Soccer
Reese Donahoe, Volleyball
Jenna Shedden, Volleyball
Joey Kopec, Football
Ricky Levak, Football

2nd Team:

Jonathan Van Hala, Boys Soccer
Nick Myers, Boys Soccer
Audrey Haines, Girls Soccer
Sam Williams, Girls Soccer
Hallie Hendrickx, Volleyball
Logan Scranton, Football
Charley Levak, Football
Dreylin Price, Football

Honorable Mention:

Tyson Linaburg, Boys Soccer
Dani Soares, Boys Soccer
Aiden Garciamendoza, Boys Soccer
Maya Najjar, Girls Soccer
Izzy Ezzone, Girls Soccer
Kendall Ritzman, Girls Soccer
McKenzie Neal, Volleyball
Ty Bova, Football
Hayden Grant, Football

ALL-CONFERENCE

Principals' Athletic Conference:

Coach of the Year – Rick Lyons,
Boys Cross Country

Coach of the Year – George Hallis,
Girls Cross Country

1st Team:

Micah Colbert, Boys Cross Country
Alex Robinson, Boys Cross Country
Jayna Cooley, Girls Cross Country
Kayla Ritzman, Girls Cross Country
Lizzie Dolan, Girls Cross Country
Josey Blackburn, Girls Cross Country
Brielle Varney, Girls Cross Country
Joey Kopec, Football
Ricky Levak, Football
Charley Levak, Football
Dreylin Price, Football
Logan Scranton, Football
Andrew Van Hala, Boys Golf
JP Vasko, Boys Soccer
Sam Anderson, Girls Soccer
Audrey Haines, Girls Soccer
Maya Najjar, Girls Soccer
Hallie Hendrickx, Volleyball
Jenna Shedden, Volleyball

Honorable Mention:

Noah Mammone, Boys Cross Country
Robbie Akins, Boys Cross Country
Andrew Clark, Boys Cross Country
Greta Bigham, Girls Cross Country
Bree Haver, Girls Cross Country
Bella Wilcox, Girls Cross Country
Louisa Walker, Girls Cross Country
Ty Bova, Football
Hayden Grant, Football
Andrew Tanner, Boys Golf
Cord Steigmeier, Boys Golf
Landon Eaton, Boys Soccer
Alex Ott, Boys Soccer
Kendall Ritzman, Girls Soccer
Sam Williams, Girls Soccer
Reese Donahoe, Volleyball



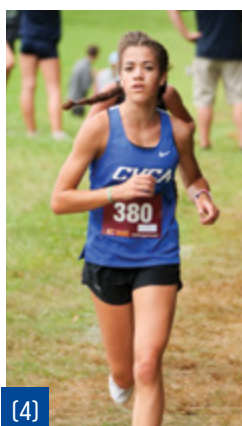
[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]



[5]



[6]



[7]

[1] The **Cheer Team** brought the energy all season long and impressed the crowd both during the games and at halftime. Behind strong senior leadership, they led some of the largest and loudest student sections in recent years. [2] The **Boys Cross Country Team** claimed their 3rd consecutive PAC-7 championship this season. They also advanced to the Regional Tournament and finished in the top four in seven different races this year. The young roster gained lots of experience and looks to be building something special. [3] 2023 was an outstanding season for the **Girls Cross Country Team**. They secured their 23rd straight conference title, placed 2nd at the District Tournament, qualified for the State Tournament, and finished 9th overall in Division II. The girls took 1st place four times this season and finished in the top 3 ten different times. [4] **Junior Jayna Cooley** earned All-Ohio honors with her 26th-place finish at this year's OHSAA Division II Cross Country State Championship. She capped off an impressive junior campaign with a time of 19:19.57 and led the Royals to a 9th-place finish as a team. [5] **Senior Kyle Spodnik** was named 2nd Team All-State (Division II) by the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association on Saturday. He received this honor after leading the Royals to a record of 11-4-2 this season. Kyle scored 15 goals and registered eight assists on the season. [6] The **Girls Cross Country Team** capped off an impressive season with an appearance at the 2023 OHSAA State Championship. Jayna Cooley, Kayla Ritzman, Lizzie Dolan, Josey Blackburn, Brielle Varney, Greta Bigham, and Bella Wilcox finished in 9th place overall in Division II. [7] The **Boys Soccer Team** finished the 2023 season with a record of 11-4-2 against a challenging schedule. The boys recorded eight shutout wins this year and outscored their opponents by 30 goals. The team spent many weeks ranked as one of the state's top 10 Division II teams.

FALL SPORTS REVIEW



[8]



[9]



[10]



[12]



[11]



[13]

[8] The **Girls Soccer Team** finished the 2023 season with a record of 11-6-1 and won seven of their final nine games. They recorded an impressive nine shutouts this season and finished as runners-up in the Principals' Athletic Conference.

[9] 2023 was a strong season for the **Boys Golf Team**. They finished with a record of 13-3 in matches and advanced to the District Tournament with a 2nd-place finish at the Sectional Tournament. Several players stepped up and led the way throughout the year.

[10] The **Volleyball Team** started fast in a very successful 2023 season. The girls won their first 11 matches on their way to a 20-4 overall record. This was the most wins for the team since 1997 and just the third time the team reached the 20-win mark. They won 58 sets this season and only lost 16.

[11] The **Girls Tennis Team** tallied a record of 16-4 this season with winning streaks of 7 and 6 matches and an impressive 9-1 finish on the road. The team was represented at the District Tournament by *Amy Grace Beebe* in singles and *Kyla Moore* and *Grace Saffles* in doubles.

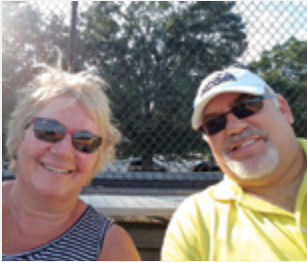
[12] The **Girls Golf Team** increased their winning percentage while matching their win total from a season ago. The girls showed flashes of strong play in 2023 and are working hard to score more consistently moving forward. They had a great season together and look forward to building off this season.

[13] The **Football Team** finished the year with an 8-3 record. They won eight regular season games for the first time in 15 years and played in the OHSAA Playoffs for the 6th consecutive season. In the team's eight wins, they outscored their opponents 294-74. The team played well in all three phases of the game throughout the 2023 season.

THE ECHOES

ALUMNI NEWS OF CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CLASS NOTES: 1975



Ben Belleman '75 writes: Amy and I currently live in Greenville, South Carolina, and work for the National Christian College Athletic Association. We will retire in June 2024 after 45 years of serving in athletics, including 19 years at CVCA. We will be

moving to Myrtle Beach and spending our time following after our kids and grandkids.



Teresa (Judy) Zachary '75 and **Craig Keslar '75** met for the first time since graduation from CVCA at the finish line of the Anchorage Mayors Half Marathon in June 2023. Craig's wife, Linda, completed her goal of 50 half marathons in all

50 states! Craig ran with her, and Teresa, who lives in Anchorage, met them at the finish line. Craig and Linda live in Ohio and Craig served on the CVCA Board for many years.

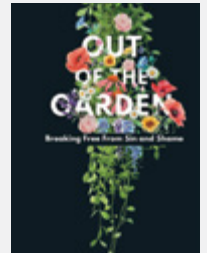
1999



Mike Brown '99 and his wife Cassie live in Trenton, Ohio with their children Henry, Jackson, and Bennett. Mike serves as a Business Analyst for Baxters North America.

Jen (Sackett) Hoffman '99

recently published *Out of the Garden: Breaking Free From Sin and Shame*.



2001

Nathan Hudson '01 started working as an assistant professor in the Physics Department at East Carolina University (ECU) in 2016 and was recently awarded tenure. He and his wife, Robin, love life in Greenville with their four kids and make it to Ohio a few times a year to visit friends and family. His

The Class of 1973 50th Year Reunion

Bob Hagaman '73 shared: During Homecoming weekend, the Class of 1973 celebrated their 50th-year reunion! Our classmates came together from various parts of the country to reminisce, foster cherished connections, and create new memories.

Friday night marked the start of our reunion with a casual get-together at a classmate's home. The evening overflowed with fabulous conversation and food as we embarked on a heartfelt trip down memory lane. We shared stories of our time as classmates, celebrated our basketball victories and choir performances, and indulged in nostalgia by watching a video compilation of our yearbooks, a video performance of our school play *Our Town*, and a grainy video of our memorable graduation ceremony. The reunion was made even more special as we caught up on each other's lives, and families and discussed careers, retirements, and business ventures.

Several classmates made great efforts to be there. **Mark Kirk '73** and **Terri (Rolik) Dalsky '73** traveled all the way from Florida, while **Gary Herbruck '73** made the journey from Indiana. **Caryn (Goodman) Martin '73** joined us from North Carolina and **Csanad Batizy '73** from Michigan. They were joined by local attendees, **Cathy (Nofsinger) Shafer '73**, **Bobby Hagaman '73**, and **Don Zarle '73**.

On Saturday, several of us enjoyed a tour of the CVCA campus, guided by Dr. Roger Taylor, President Emeritus. It was heartwarming to walk through the halls of our beloved alma mater once again, reminiscing about our time as students and marveling at the changes that have occurred over the years.

The festivities continued on Saturday night with a dinner at Beau's on the River in Cuyahoga Falls where we were joined by two beloved teachers, Mrs. Noreen (Decker) Goodman, our Business and Typing teacher, and Miss Ethel Mae Haslett, our English teacher. The presence of these exceptional educators added an extra layer of nostalgia to our reunion, and we cherished the opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for their guidance and support. It was a delightful evening that further solidified the bonds of friendship among us.

The Class of 1973's 50th-year reunion exemplified the enduring friendships and strong connections that were forged during our time at CVCA. For our classmates who were unable to attend, you were sincerely missed. We hope you will be able to attend next time. Please send contact information to rhagaman@email.com if you would like to be updated on any future events, or to be sent photographs of the reunion.



research involves characterizing the biophysical properties of the blood clotting system. Nathan recently helped establish the East Carolina Study Center, with a vision of it becoming a hub of Christian life and thought near campus. In his free time, he coaches a Lego robotics team and can still occasionally be found near a chess board, reminiscing about the state championships the CVCA chess team won during his time as a student.

2008



Denny King '08 writes: I am a Professor at Case Western Reserve University and a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at Applewood Centers. Katie and I have four children: Elsie (6), Lucie (4), Rosalie (2), and Joshua (6 months). We are grateful to be working together to raise our children. Our mission as a family is to help children and their families grow closer to Christ.



Sarah Scafidi '08 graduated from Yale University where she earned her Masters in

Theater Management and Business Administration. She is the Managing Director of Waterwell Theater.

2009



Ben '09 and Tricia (Spontarelli) '09 Speas welcomed Ila Kate on October 26, 2023. She joins Leo (8), Ava (6), and Mia (3).

2010



Stephen Morris '10 writes: Abby and I welcomed baby boy, Simeon, on October 29, 2023. He joins Naomi (4) and Lydia (2). We moved to Roach, Missouri in August to begin a two-year missionary training program with Ethnos360. We love the training and are prayerfully considering a few different fields where we might serve after training is completed.



Hannah (Plum) '10 married Isaac Mang in February 2023. She writes: I was a school counselor for seven years, but have stepped away to be a homemaker. My



We love to see our alumni celebrate life's milestones together!

On July 29, 2023, **James Fishel '13** and **Olivia (Ottman) '20** celebrated their "Royal Merger" in a beautiful wedding ceremony at Redemption Chapel in Stow and reception at Quaker Square. The wedding party was full of CVCA alumni, including the groom's sister, **Lauren (Fishel) Swanson '14**; the bride's sister, **Julia Ottman '20**; best men **Casey Clafin '13**, **Antonio DiBiasio '13**, and **Jacob Sziraky '13**; groomsmen **Joey DiBiasio '15**; and usher **Aiden Kearney '20**. James is currently the Lab Director at Auto Technologies in Strongsville, and Olivia is an RN at University Hospitals Portage Medical Center. The happy couple resides in Cuyahoga Falls.

husband and I have started a fun new project for us – a YouTube channel for kids called Mang and the Gang.

for his continued health and that he grows up knowing and loving the Lord. We are so grateful to be his parents!

2011



Cory Seeholzer '11 and his wife Ashley welcomed baby girl Mylah Nicole on April 18, 2023. She joins proud big brother Dawson Thomas (2).

2013



Natalie (Silk) Murphy '13 and her husband Mark welcomed baby boy Mark Robert on August 22, 2023. They live in Hudson, Ohio.

2012



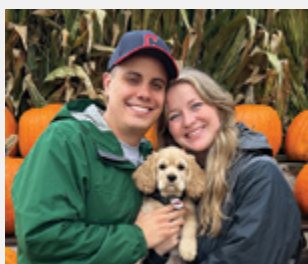
Renee (Ormond) Cornelius '12 writes: Joe and I welcomed our first baby Vincent Alexander on November 21, 2023. We pray



Matthew (Pastoria) '13 and **Cierra '13 Vaughn** married in March 2022 and welcomed Giovanni James Edward on June 20, 2023.



Grace (Bolinger) '13 and Josiah '14 Rios welcomed baby daughter Selah on February 13, 2023. She joins Liliana (4) and Jedidiah (3). Grace shared: We are a family in full-time ministry! Josiah serves as the middle school pastor at our church in Canfield, Ohio. I am at home with our three wonderful children and help with various church ministries: I minister to mamas of young kids, assist with the middle school ministry, and am helping direct our church's children's musical.



Kristen (Sundet) van Dyck '13 and her husband Josiah recently moved back to Ohio where Kristen is serving as the Administrative Assistant for "Crescendo," a ministry of Cru.

2016

James Trombka '16, an Accessibility Specialist in Student Accessibility Services at Kent State University, writes: I'm currently directing my first play with fellow CVCA alum **Hope Bolinger '15**, and it's been a fun and exhausting journey. I'm also part of an improv group called Scriptless in Seattle, also made up of CVCA alumni. We've performed in venues all across the US and are excited to see where we will be headed next!

2017



Hope (Casseday) '17 and Joseph Budrevich '17 were married on November 18, 2023. Hope is a Radiologic Technologist for University Hospitals Urgent Care. Joey got his bachelor's in electrical engineering and works at DLH Bowles in Canton.

Aubrienne (Cirino) '17 and Nathan Stull '17 were married on May 13, 2023. Aubrienne shared: After graduating from CVCA, we both attended Ohio University (go bobcats!). For the last two years, Nathan worked



at Parker Hannifin in IT while I attended graduate school at Kent State University. Nathan recently took a job in full-time ministry at Christ Community Chapel in Hudson, and I started working as a Speech Language Pathologist.

2018



Alexandra (Samsonas) Graffin '18 shared: Bryce and I welcomed baby girl Scarlet in May 2022. My husband is a 2nd LT in the US Air Force. We welcome your prayers as we navigate our new life in San Antonio as a military family!

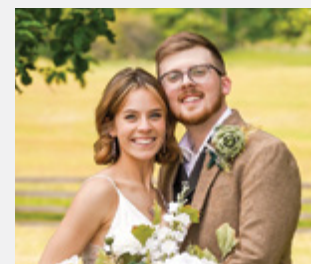
2019

Kenzie (Spodnik) '19 and Zack Venus '19 shared: We both graduated from Messiah University in May 2023. We got married on July 21, 2023 in Wooster, Ohio where



Dr. Koons, one of our favorite teachers, officiated our wedding! Since then, we moved to Dallas, Texas where Zack is working in finance and Kenzie in marketing and communications. We are so thankful for CVCA for lots of reasons, one being that's where our friendship began!

2021



Micaiah (Rios) '21 and Douglas Knapp '19 were married in June of 2023. Micaiah writes: We've been married for six months now, and it's been amazing! We have both found our dream jobs. Douglas is a dog trainer at Sit Means Sit, and Micaiah is a cosmetologist at Bellezza Avanti Salon & Spa. The Lord has blessed us so much throughout our engagement and marriage, and we are excited to continue to grow closer to Him as well as each other.

We would love to hear from you!

Contact alumni@cvcaroyals.org or scan the QR code at right to submit alumni news for *The Echoes* or to update your contact information. For *Echoes* submissions, please include your graduation year(s) and maiden names. Photos should be the highest resolution possible and submitted as email attachments or submitted through the QR code link. *The Trumpeter* reserves the right to edit alumni news for clarity, appropriateness, and space limitations.

We recently edited our mailing list to eliminate duplicate Trumpeter copies to a single household. If you would like to add a new address to our mailing list, please email media@cvcaroyals.org.



Kingdom Mindset. Kingdom Culture. Come and See.

JOHN 1:37-41

“Come and See.” It’s a short sentence that calls for a more extended look. In the Bible, the object of study is Christ. At CVCA, He is at the center of all we do. A CVCA education is a uniquely intentional approach that **prepares students academically, socially, physically, and spiritually** for college and beyond.

- ▶ **Serving grades 6-12**, CVCA is a college-prep middle and high school committed to academic excellence in a supportive, distinctively Christian environment.
- ▶ Our **biblically-integrated curriculum** is delivered by a dedicated faculty serving over 1,050 students from eight counties on a 70-acre campus.
- ▶ The CVCA **middle school experience** is uniquely different from many other educational avenues offered today. Focusing on the specific needs of middle school students, our curriculum fosters curiosity, creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and compassion – what we refer to as the C7 Experience. As a result, our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are afforded opportunities that most have to wait for 9th to 12th grades to enjoy.
- ▶ With **ALL families eligible for tuition assistance**, a CVCA education is more affordable than you may think.

We invite you to “Come and See” at our **Winter Open House on January 26, 2024** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tour the campus, meet students, teachers, and administrators, and find out how we are *Educating and Cultivating Servants for Christ*.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY
CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY

4687 WYOGA LAKE RD | CUYAHOGA FALLS, OH 44224 | CVCAROYALS.ORG





Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy

4687 Wyoga Lake Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44224

330-929-0575
cvcaroyals.org

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- The amount you donate immediately REDUCES your State tax liability – dollar for dollar.
- Married couples can donate up to \$1,500 and single taxpayers up to \$750 per year.
- All Ohio taxpayers can donate, so please share this opportunity with your friends and family.

Questions? Please contact CVCA's Advancement Team at 330-929-0575, ext. 324 or email jharabedian@cvcaroyals.org.

Are you ready to redirect some of your tax liability for the benefit of CVCA? Scan the QR code at right to donate today!



Go to cvcaroyals.org/SGO
or scan this code to learn
more and donate today.



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