

THE NEXT GENERATION OF **GRACE**



Dan Darling | Advancement Director

The Next Generation

by Dan Darling | Advancement Director

Forty-five years ago, a couple nearing retirement felt called of God to start a church in the living room of their home on Middlebrook Avenue. Just five years later, having added to the front of the house to accommodate the growing attendance, this group believed in the need to start Grace Christian School. That first class numbered seven students.

Today, forty years later and with over 300 students, the hand of God's blessing is abundantly evident! Miracle after miracle, changed life after changed life, and property after property, the testimony of God's faithfulness is clearly seen with the stories of so many graduates and students. Even the second generation of those early students numbers in the seventies. Alumni parents bringing their children is a testament to a Biblical foundation of teaching, discipleship, and the living out of a Christian Worldview. *(continued on pg. 4)*



GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL WARRIORS

Sports Update

The 2022-23 GCS sports year was a great success with championships won and lost, players recognized for their individual achievements, and many other highs and lows. We fielded twenty-seven sports teams from K-2 Soccer up to many Varsity teams. The year began with eleven fall sports teams in Cross Country, Volleyball, and Soccer. VACA State Championships were won in Varsity Boys and Girls Cross Country and Varsity and Middle School Boys Soccer. The winter brought eleven more teams in Wrestling and Basketball. Our Varsity Girls Basketball team won the VACA State Championship, and our Varsity Wrestling team had several medalists and our first-ever VISAA individual champion. The spring season saw five teams being fielded in Golf, Soccer, and Baseball, with a Varsity Golfer signing an offer sheet to play at the collegiate level and the Varsity Girls Soccer team winning the VACA State Championship. The successes of teams is something to celebrate, but the character-building in our athletes is of prime importance.

We hope to instill good sportsmanship, a strong work ethic, and a reflection of Christ in our athletes. What follows are two great examples of the latter.

During our JVB Basketball season, our team was on the road, far from home, when the coaches and players stopped at a fast-food restaurant for a late-night dinner. As our boys were standing first in line and looking over the menu, an older gentleman entered the restaurant and got in line. Our boys turned around and let the man go in front of them and engaged him in conversation. He was so impressed with the boys that he secretly made a sizable donation towards all of their meals and complimented them to our coaches on the way out. After a long day at school, a long bus ride, a tough game, and not having eaten for quite a while, our boys still put others first.

During the spring season, one of our Varsity teams showed patience and love towards a younger, less-experienced teammate, when a few of the more experienced players took the time to explain the best methods to improve, then worked with the teammate toward improving the skill level for future seasons. The kindness and individual work show why sports are such a great vehicle for showing the spirit of Christ to others.



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2022-2023

VACA Champions

Middle School Boys Soccer
Varsity Boys Soccer
Varsity Girls Cross Country
Varsity Boys Cross Country
Varsity Girls Basketball
Varsity Girls Soccer

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR **Highlights**



Are We There Yet? | 4TH - 6TH OCTOBER MUSICAL

The students were amazing! Sadly, Levi Walker became ill before showtime. He had worked so hard to fill his role in the musical, but Phin Corbin stepped in and did an amazing job! Cheri Khars | Elementary and Middle School Aide



I have been blessed to watch how students have opened their circles of friends to include everyone. MS students have grown tremendously in that area.

JULIE YEOMANS
Middle School Teacher & Academic Dean

Incubation! | MRS. RIDDLE'S 3RD-GRADE CLASS

We had ten eggs in an incubator. We watched, candled, and waited. Four of them hatched. We enjoyed them in our room for about a week. The kids were allowed to hold them in the afternoons.



Acting & Yearbook

Note from Becky Boyette | Acting Teacher & Director Yearbook Teacher/Advisor

It was amazing to host our first-ever one-act Play competition and take home the award for Best Ensemble Cast! And I will never forget the magic of *Mary Poppins* and how every cast member brought light and joy to our audience. We were thrilled to welcome over 1,000 guests to our theater over the four performances. I'm so proud of my students using their God-given talents to share a positive, family-friendly experience with our community.

I'm also incredibly proud of my yearbook students for finishing in the top ten "Best Overall Yearbook" entries out of over 1,000 competitors in Entourage's annual yearbook competition. They really pushed themselves to excel in layout, design, and feature-story writing. Hopefully, the win proved that hard work and dedication yield results. I'm proud they achieved excellence in representing our school and our values through our yearbook.



Ice Skating

Note from Jim Kerr | High School Principal

When we went ice skating for an HS activity, one of the staff members pulled me aside to compliment our students, "who are the most polite group I have ever experienced in all of my years working here." Months later, an individual was interested in teaching here because she was thoroughly impressed with the students she interacted with and by the other students she observed from afar. She says, "I have been to many different Christian schools in my role as a college rep, but your students and faculty stand apart so much, that I am only applying at your school and one other, even though I have been to dozens throughout my territory."





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GROUND WAS BROKEN this morning for the Central Augusta High School, to be constructed on Rt. 602, west of the city limits of Stanton. Taking part in ceremonies were (left to right) the Rev. James H. Scott Jr., who gave the principal address; R. O. Williams, repre-

Groundbreaking Today For Central High School

Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted this morning for Central Augusta High School, expected to cost \$461,000 complete-ly equipped, and to be ready for occupancy by September, 1961. Actual cost of construction is to be kept within the \$400,000 provided in the budget.

The school is the first of four to be constructed with money provided in the \$3.7 bond issue approved by county voters in November, 1958. Other schools for which bids are to be accepted at two p.m. Nov. 16 at the County School Board office, are Western Augusta, to be built on Rt. 42, near Buffalo Gap; Northern Augusta, just off Rt. 11 near Ft. Defiance; and Southern Augusta, overlooking Rt. 11 and just north of Greenville.

At The Site
The principal address was given at the site of the school on

representative of the firm of S. R. Gay and Co., contractor; Mrs. Minnie Richardson, president of the Augusta County Training School PTA; P. M. Lathrop, architect; and Hugh K. Cassell, superintendent of Augusta County Schools. (Staff Photo by Reese)

Others present for the groundbreaking ceremonies were Hugh K. Cassell, superintendent of Augusta County Schools; P. M. Lathrop of Stanton, architect; R. O. Williams, construction manager for S. R. Gay and Co. Lynchburg contractor; and Mrs. Minnie Richardson, president of the PTA at Augusta County Training School and O. S. Crute, director of the bureau of teaching materials.

The Rev. Mr. Scott said, "We stand here today on the threshold of a new and rewarding moment of historic significance in Augusta County. On this ground now being broken, the new Central Augusta High School is to be built.

"The initial purpose of the school plant is to develop the best architectural expression of the curricular needs and the educational functions and ideals of our youth and community. The ultimate purpose of this educational edifice is to develop a learning environment in which the frontiers of intellectual awareness and academic excellence may be expanded to a point worthy of our pride and productive of our commonwealth.

"The confident planning, approval, and support of the superintendent, contractor, architect, Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and the citizenry of Augusta County are responsible for this moment of realization and fulfillment."

Earth Moved
Following the address, the dedicatory prayer also was given by the Rev. Mr. Scott. The first shovel of dirt was removed by Mrs.

Grace Christian School stands ready to build for future generations...

...bolstered these many years by a church whose elders and congregants believe and serve the mission of a Christian education, solid Biblical teaching, and the mandate of making disciples.

In the fall of 2021, a property designed to to accommodate future generations of GCS students was found. The long-standing prayer of school consolidation was answered. Space won't allow the sharing of the purchase story, which could rival a miracle of biblical proportion. The storied history of the Beverly Manor (Cedar Green Rd.) School is well-documented in the laurels of Augusta County, VA. Built in the 1950s as a segregated school, it served the community during a difficult time in history. Some years later it served as one of the larger elementary schools. As of just five years ago, the halls of this school went silent.

The 77,000 square feet of uniquely designed space within its twenty acres of land was carefully and prayerfully considered, explored, and calculated. Add the green spaces, soccer field, large playground, outdoor courts, and one of the largest gym facilities in the county, and you have the plan of God unfolding. One great blessing was that the school and Community Fellowship Church were able to purchase the facilities and property in cash. This last note is a testament to the fiscal wisdom and practice of church leadership and school trustees over the years.

Engineers, contractors, and architects helped give professional insights (some by volunteering) to ensure the viability and validity of refurbishment rather than a new construction project. These same individuals provided the list of areas needing attention to be readied for incoming students. Those included new roofing, insulation, asbestos abatement, internet fiber, a security system, HVAC, and electrical systems, along with new windows, doors, plumbing, interior classroom updates, and, of course, the all-important soccer and other playing fields.

Besides consolidating the school under one roof (presently six buildings are used), the new facility allows for growth (two classes per grade) and much-needed playground and sports space. Much work has already been done, such as: leveling and seeding of the soccer field, installation of security cameras to deter vandalism, updating of electric panels, and drafting of professional drawings to secure permits for the work. All is ready to begin the refurbishment.

One thing remains: the needed funding to complete the project. The sales of our existing buildings will provide approximately half the need. The other half, approximately 3.5 million, is being sought with a Capital Campaign effort.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF GRACE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

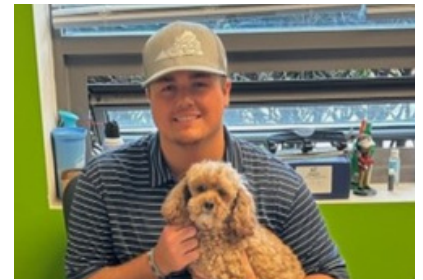
Would you prayerfully consider a donation pledge towards "The Next Generation" campaign to help complete this project? The QR code below will direct you to the donation giving site where pledges can be made. You can also use the enclosed card and envelope to make a pledge or send a check.

THANKS FOR BEING PART OF THIS MINISTRY IN GCS STUDENTS' LIVES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD!



Alumni Updates

At Grace we are so proud of our alumni and how they are answering God's call on their lives in dynamic ways. Hagen Allred ('19) graduated from Liberty University in May. He is currently the Senior Account Executive for the Lynchburg Hillcats minor league baseball team. In this role, Hagen leads group sales, manages the pressbox staff, and handles the team's merchandise platform. On top of that, Hagen has created a nonprofit program called Community Champions Fundraising Program which allows nonprofit organizations to raise money and awareness at the Hillcats' ballpark.



Hagen Allred | GCS Class of 2019



The wedding of Justin Rockafellow and Peyton Bolt | June 3, 2023

Justin Rockafellow and Peyton Bolt (GCS Class of '20) were married on June 3rd. Justin is currently interning as an accountant at PBMares, and Peyton is currently working with adults who have Autism Spectrum Disorder. They both graduate from Liberty University in December. Justin will have a B.S. in Accounting, and Peyton will have a B.S. in Psychology with a Cognate in Counseling. After that, Justin will be working full time at PBMares and Peyton is currently applying to Liberty's grad school for Clinical Psychology.



SAVE THE DATES

- Back-to-School Picnic | Tuesday, August 15
- Pass It On Family Picnic | Thursday, October 5
- Alumni and Friends Christmas Gala | December 16
- Annual Benefit Auction | April 13



GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
WARRIORS

SHOP NOW



Our mission is to assist Christian parents by providing a sound academic education in a Christ-centered environment designed to prepare our young people to know God and to live in obedience to His will for their lives.

We are hiring!
View all open positions here.



GCS | GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Sound Academic Education. Christ-centered Environment.



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