



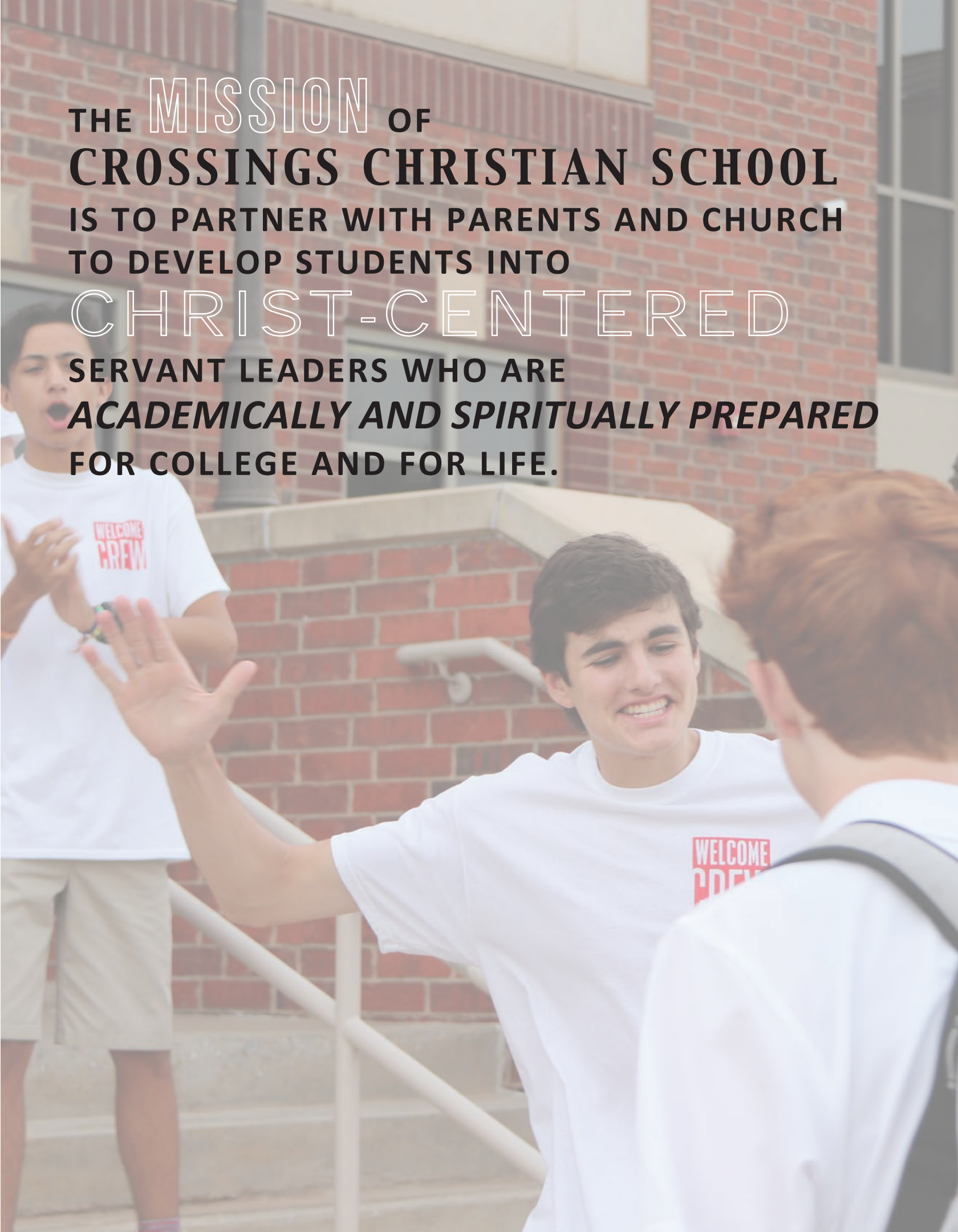
OUR MISSION IN ACTION

THE JOURNAL OF CROSSINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

missio

ISSUE 2
WINTER 2019

THE **MISSION** OF
CROSSINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
IS TO PARTNER WITH PARENTS AND CHURCH
TO DEVELOP STUDENTS INTO
CHRIST-CENTERED
SERVANT LEADERS WHO ARE
ACADEMICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY PREPARED
FOR COLLEGE AND FOR LIFE.



OUR MISSION IN ACTION

FROM THE HEADMASTER

CCS family,

As I write this, it has been an exciting and rewarding week at CCS. Our US academic team swept through the state championship competition to win our fourth title in seven years, and the fourth state championship for Crossings this year. The MS returned from an invitational academic meet where all three teams (6th, 7th and 8th) won convincingly. Our symphonic orchestra is preparing for another state competition, and I wish all of you could hear them perform.

We went into this week having received the word that CCS was named once again a Best Christian Workplace with the highest score received by a school. When you peruse this issue of Missio, you will understand why. Our talented staff works tirelessly with our diligent students in all areas: academics, athletics and the arts, to fulfill our mission of developing well-rounded Christ-centered servant leaders. In the following pages you will see visual and read verbal evidence of this.

As you do so, please take a moment to thank the One who has made all of this possible. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." (James 1:17) and He deserves all of the credit for the great things our staff and students are accomplishing at CCS.

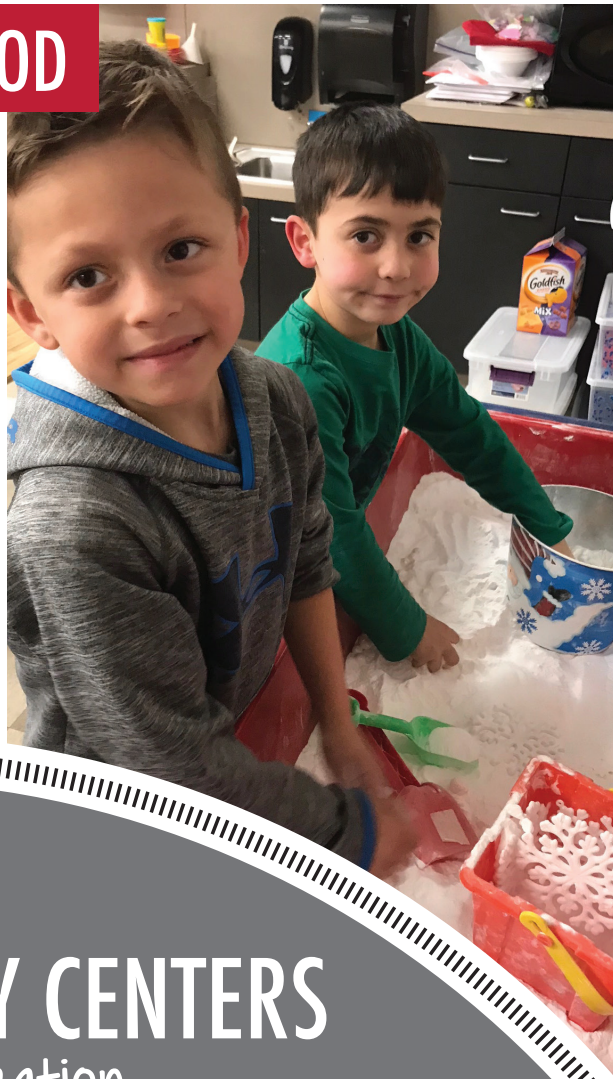
Enjoy,



Mr. Mac



EARLY CHILDHOOD



THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAMATIC PLAY CENTERS in Early Childhood Education

Education begins with students as young as 3 years of age in the early childhood program. Peeking into the classrooms, it's hard to not smile watching the students hard at work...or as it appears from the outside looking in, hard at play. Dramatic play also known as "pretend or make believe play," takes place when young children act out real life situations and take on the roles of different characters. According to CCS Early Childhood Director, Debbie Symes, "Children learn through the context of play, creating a joyful classroom environment while learning life-long skills!"

A typical day in the CCS preschool and pre-kindergarten classroom will include both structured and non-structured dramatic play creating social, emotional, cognitive, and spiritual development opportunities. Students can often be seen taking orders, making coffee, taking payment and making change at their very own "coffee shop." Other dramatic play experiences include shopping at the grocery store using a specific list supporting early literacy through environmental and functional print through receipts, lists, and branding. Being the weather girl or weather man expands vocabulary while developing social skills and increasing awareness of every day factors like understanding temperature, seasons, and weather.

Dramatic play at its core is an important part of child development instilling decision making skills while encouraging creativity. Students learn how to self-regulate and are encouraged to cooperate with their peers which helps them grow in their understanding of others. These teachable moments introduce how to resolve conflicts and work through differences while learning to compromise with one another.

Whether students are acting the roles of community helpers or 'filming the nightly news,' these little Knights are learning about their world and developing social and intellectual skills for life. "It only takes a quick glance into one of our early childhood classrooms to see the importance of dramatic and pretend play. The learning and creativity taking place as children cooperate and work through real-life situations is truly amazing." Debbie Symes, CCS Early Childhood Director





LOWER SCHOOL

U

UNITY

is the 2018-2019 theme and the foundation for kindergarten through fourth grade students. Understanding and learning how to reflect love, compassion, selflessness and consideration of Christ through unity has been practiced in a variety of ways throughout the lower school. This includes practicing unity through service to others, in the classroom, and personally through spiritual growth and biblical integration.



*"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."
Psalm 133:1*



*"...man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart."
1 Samuel 16:7*



*"For where two or three gather in my name, there I am among them."
Matthew 18:20*

UNITY

UNITY *through service*

First through fourth grade students spend time each week during chapel praying for others and even donating their own quarters and \$1 bills in support of the "Change for a Dollar" program. "Change for a Dollar" allows students the opportunity to create change for those in need through their prayers as well as their financial resources. This year, lower school students have supported the Imani Milele Children's Choir, a Christian organization that travels and performs to raise awareness and funds for the education of Uganda's orphans. CCS students were able to worship alongside the Milele choir and gift them with \$300 to help build their school in Uganda.



UNITY *in the classroom*

Lower school students are practicing unity through academics and daily classroom tasks. Often times, unity in the classroom is structured when working in pairs and small group partnerships or matching uniform dress-up days; but CCS students are also learning how to show unity individually. Placing a post-it note on a fellow student's desk with a kind word is a common occurrence, as is seeing student greeters welcome others in to the classroom to help brighten their day.



UNITY *through spiritual growth*

Biblical integration is always a focus, and necessary to experiencing unity and spiritual growth. Each month, lower school students collectively focus on one verse, in addition to the passages being studied within their individual classrooms. Students learn these verses and recite them daily during morning announcements. These same verses are prioritized throughout each day, even practicing them as a fun song or chant with motions during their PE classes. Additionally, different grade levels utilize the same passages to create Bible lessons and skits to present to one another during their weekly chapel times. Lessons learned from these verses are then used as intentional prayer opportunities for all students.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

"WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART..."
COLOSSIANS 3:23

Annually, the middle school year present opportunities to provide and refine the foundational skills for student success in high school and beyond. The integration of exploratory blocks allows for increased academic and emotional growth through hands-on learning activities, while encouraging interest and increased curiosity for a variety of disciplines. Each student engages in exploratory blocks, four rotating nine week classes. Middle school principal, Beth Tollefson stated "All students benefit from enrichment courses and are provided opportunities for growth using their God-given gifts and talents in the classroom and beyond."

5th

HANDS ON EQUATIONS is a powerful tool designed to equip students with a solid foundation to solve equations and verbal problems algebraically. Using the whole brain, CCS 5th grade students learn to master their math skills in preparation for algebra and higher level math courses. Additionally, students learn to:

- > Organize and consolidate mathematical thinking through communication coherently and clearly
- > Use the language of mathematics to express mathematical ideas precisely.
- > Use concrete models and kinesthetic motions to represent and solve equations in one variable with unknowns on both sides of the equation.
- > Apply and adapt a variety of appropriate strategies to solve problems.
- > Create and use representations to organize, record, and communicate mathematical ideas.
- > Select, apply, and translate among mathematical representations to solve problems.



"I LOVE TEACHING HANDS ON EQUATIONS! SEEING STUDENTS SOLVE COMPLEX PROBLEMS AND GAIN CONFIDENCE IN MATH IS ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF MY DAY!" - MRS. ARCHER



The **CRITICAL and CREATIVE THINKING SKILLS** course uses various games and methods to reinforce critical thinking in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Fun games and brain-based learning activities help students develop critical thinking skills through observing, analyzing, categorizing, problem solving and evaluating tasks.

"HELPING STUDENTS EXTEND THEIR THINKING AND WORK THROUGH FUN BUT DIFFICULT PROJECTS IS SO REWARDING. I LOVE BEING WITH THE STUDENTS IN THIS SETTING WHERE WE CAN RELAX AND THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!" - MRS. J

7th

STEM is a course exploring science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with a focus on astronomy topics. Students will conduct laboratory investigations and use technology to design and create presentations and web-based projects. The course is divided into three succinct units and are each biblically integrated. The first unit focuses on the Earth, Moon, and Sun system. The second unit explores the components of our solar system. In the third unit, students learn about the observable universe. This unit includes stellar life cycle, interpreting Hertzsprung-Russell diagrams, and types of galaxies.

"I LOVE STEM WITH MRS. CLARK. SHE IS DETAILED WITH EVERYTHING SHE DOES. HER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES ARE ONES THAT WILL REALLY STICK WITH US."
DELANEY S. '24



6th

STEM, Science Technology Engineering and Math, engages students through high interest hands-on projects to stimulate problem solving and critical thinking skills. CCS sixth graders learn to create through a variety of invention and design projects fostering a love of science through hands-on learning. Students stay busy inside and outside of the classroom as they build, test, compete, and evaluate their inventions, including Sail Cars, Skyscraper Designs using spaghetti noodles, Finker Experiments, Roller Coaster Physics, Marble Zip lines, Engineering Blocks, and Cantilever Designs to name a few.

ENGLISH ENRICHMENT

focuses on advancing reading comprehension and developing effective writing skills. Students practice the fundamentals of both the writing process as well as the necessary steps to capture and submit their work in preparation for high school and college. After setting a goal for their future, students culminate their thoughts through a written personal narrative. They then learn how to type their composition in MLA format on a Word document and submit through Google classroom. Students also learn sentence variety and structure and how to incorporate those features into their writing.

In order to foster collaboration and persuasive writing skills, students work in groups to determine an argumentative visual and oral presentation on a controversial topic. Students then contribute to a group short story in which the elements of setting, characters, conflict, dialogue, and resolution are introduced. Literary passages that relate to curriculum topics are read intermittently throughout the course and students utilize the IXL program, an online system aimed to increase comprehension skills through literature passages.

"MRS. CROCKER MAKES SCIENCE FUN. WE CAN CHOOSE OUR PARTNERS AND HAVE FUN WITH COOL ACTIVITIES!"
LUKE P. '25



"I REALLY ENJOY THE PERSONAL ESSAYS! WRITING IS REALLY FUN!"
ELOISE C. '25

8th

SPANISH, is a fun, engaging, and interactive class where students are encouraged to take on a new Spanish name and embark on a journey of language and culture. Students spend their days learning the alphabet, practicing how to introduce themselves and others, watching fun and catchy Spanish music videos, asking where people are from, talking about days of the week, asking and giving phone numbers and discussing the weather with their classmates. These tasks culminate in a final project that presents the cultures, music, food, sports, families, education, and geography of many different Spanish speaking countries from Mexico, to Chile, and all the way to Spain.

"PROFE IS AN AMAZING SPANISH TEACHER. HE MAKES LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE EASY AND FUN! GRACIAS PROFE!" - REAGAN T. '23



WRITING ENRICHMENT approaches writing from a variety of activities that include reading and analyzing speeches to researching and writing an argumentative essay. In preparation, students are exposed to various rhetorical and literary devices such as ethos, pathos, logos, parallelism, anaphora, allusion and antithesis. Students analyze "I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King Jr., "President John F. Kennedy's First Inaugural Address", Paul's speech to the men of Athens from Acts 17, and President Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall" speech. After analyzing several speeches, students write well-researched persuasive essays and present their work in speech form to their class.

"WE HAD SO MUCH FUN WITH MRS. VALENTINE. SHE REALLY GETS US TO EXPRESS OUR FUNNY SIDE THROUGH WRITING PROJECTS. I HAVE DISCOVERED SO MUCH ABOUT WRITING!"
MEAGAN C. '24



A photograph of two female students on a stage. The student on the left is wearing a white and brown floral patterned dress with a large white ruffled collar and puffed sleeves. She has her hair in a bun and is wearing glasses. The student on the right is wearing a black dress with a dark patterned shawl or capelet over her shoulders. She also has her hair in a bun and is wearing glasses. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is a simple stage set with blue and brown tones.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT GROWTH

The Theatre Arts Department has experienced tremendous growth since its foundation in 2012. Its first show, *Annie Jr.*, was produced eight years ago and performed in the lower school gym. With its modest cast of 17 students and a featured ensemble of 3, few people would have imagined the explosive growth this program has experienced since that time.

Drama teacher, Ms. Angela Lux, took over the department three years ago and immediately knew the caliber of student talent within the program. Ms. Lux quickly added full length and junior show productions, knowing that these changes would significantly ramp up the program and challenge the students. Since that time, the hard working students, now known as “Percival’s Players” and the staff of the Fine Arts Department have produced a total of eight shows, on three different stages, combining the talent and passions of over 300 CCS students of all ages.

In April of 2017, CCS students were thrilled to open their first show in the newly built CCS Performing Arts Center (PAC), *Bye Bye Birdie*. Over the past year and half, the CCS Theatre Arts Department has produced an additional four shows in the PAC. CCS Middle School students entertained with *Lion King, Jr.* featuring a cast of 68 students, and led by a production team consisting of twelfth grade students. *A Christmas Carol’s* cast of 40 combined the talents of upper and middle school students, and the

upper school musical, Rogers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*, wowed audiences with its beautiful music, gorgeous costumes and unforgettable storytelling in the spring of 2018.

The past few months, the Theatre Arts Department has had the unique opportunity to share their talents, as well as their stage out of a desire to serve others, with their first ever Radio Theatre Production in the drama *The Thin Man*. Not only was this production a first, but it was the first partnership with Kaleidoscope programs at KidsAllive!, a joyful theatre program in OKC. The event marked a special experience for CCS students and the students at KidsAllive! And all proceeds benefited this special group. In November a small, hardworking cast presented the department’s first dark humor play, *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Audiences laughed uproariously to a show that has been smashing expectations since it was first created in the 1940’s.

Percival’s Players are currently in rehearsal for the spring musical, Meredith Willson’s *The Music Man*, featuring a cast of middle and upper school students. Performances will be on April 5 and 6, at 7:00 pm in the CCS Performing Arts Center. Sure to be another show stopper, lower school students will also be a part of the fun as they are invited to attend in turn-of-the-century pioneer costumes and will have the opportunity to take pictures with the cast following both performances.

BAND | ORCHESTRA | VOCAL

Whether it's children's voices or a musical instrument, there's always music to be heard across our campus! With an emphasis on the arts, students of all ages are afforded the opportunity to grow and develop their skills in vocals, band, orchestra, theatre, and the visual arts. This fall included many fun-filled performances from preschool to upper school aged students in a variety of settings and opportunities. Middle and upper school groups hosted multiple concerts as well as individual performances at CCS Grandparent's Day, Crossings Community Church, Stanley Hupfeld Academy, and the Edmond Chamber of Commerce.

The CCS Fine Arts Department also welcomed two new staff members this fall, Mr. Garrett Johnson, middle school band and percussion ensemble director and Mrs. Amber Mash, vocals and show choir director. Both Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Mash have made significant impacts to the programs and along with the fine arts team, continue to work diligently with their students in preparation for their performances at contest this spring. Many students and groups have already earned individual honors and selections including:

North Central Honors Orchestra:

Waverly W. '19, Haylee E. '22, Tucker M. '23, Olivia W. '23, Ben P. '24, Nolan A. '24, Regan H. '24 and Jayden F. '24

Oklahoma Chamber Honors Orchestra:

Colin A. '25, Eloise C. '25, Ruby R. '25 and Lauren P. '25

Central Oklahoma Honor Choir:

Reagan A. '24, Mariah P. '23, Taylor B. '22 and Jacob M. '22

Children's All-State Chorus: *Hope R. '25*

Junior High All-State Chorus: *Abbey S. '22, Jacob M. '22*, who also earned the prestigious honor of becoming a "Three Year Member Medal."

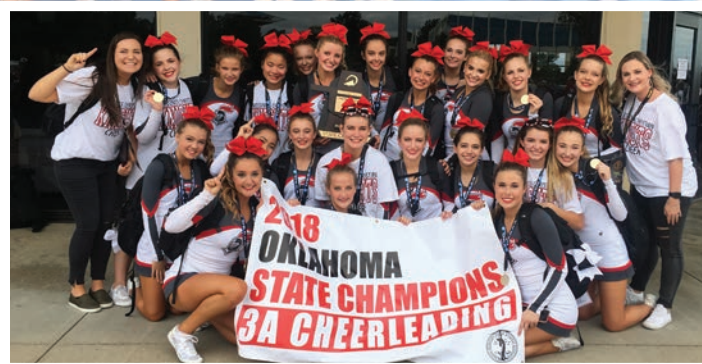
ACADEMIC TEAM

Crossings' academic teams have had strong showings at all levels including fourth through twelfth grade. The varsity academic bowl team won all three of its Class 3A OSSAA district, regional and area competitions, and will represent Crossings in the state tournament in February. A froshmore (freshman and sophomore) academic team won its OAAC math tournament, thereby qualifying for its state tournament, and both froshmore teams will compete in qualifying science and humanities tournaments during the upcoming months. Middle school academic teams are also experiencing success with both 7th and 8th grade teams advancing to their OAAC area tournament, a 6th grade team advancing directly to the OAAC area tournament and another team striving to qualify via an additional competition. The fourth and fifth grade teams have also proved triumphant, both placing in their first tournaments of the year.

KNIGHTS MA

CHRISTIAN COMPETITION

"FOR WHILE BODILY TRAINING IS OF SOME VALUE,
GODLINESS IS OF VALUE IN EVERY WAY..."
1 TIMOTHY 4:8



CHEER

TWO TITLES. ONE YEAR.

The 2018 fall semester was an exciting time for the 22 ladies of CCS Cheer. With only a few years of competition under their belts, the team placed first in the OSSAA Class 3A Competitive Cheer State Competition, making history for CCS and the young team. However, the team wasn't finished as they claimed a second state title only weeks later in the OSSAA Class 3A Game Day Cheer State Competition. 2018 was the first year that CCS competed in Game Day and welcomed the opportunity for a new form of competition, and one that added boys to the team. The 21 girls and 4 boys swept the competition winning all three categories including fight song, crowd involvement, and time out dance - securing the gold with first place overall. Kaitlan Lombardo, head coach, is "proud of the team's hard work and growth with one another" and is looking forward to another great season in 2019!



TAKE HISTORY



POM

FIRST COMPETITION BRINGS HOME GOLD

The CCS Pom Squad took first place in their first ever OSDTDA, Oklahoma State Dance Team Directors' Association, competition and making CCS history. Led by coach Hayden Bingaman, the team competed in the 2A-4A Mixed Division incorporating Kick, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Pom skills into their winning routine.

A RECORD YEAR FOR FOOTBALL

The 2018 Crossings Football program soared to new heights as one of the youngest programs in OSSAA Class A Football. Finishing with ten wins, three losses, and an appearance in the state quarterfinals; the Knights made CCS history by setting school records for wins and recorded the team's first and second playoff victories.

Included in those ten victories, were triumphs over two top five opponents, Minco and Hooker.

Several players were recognized with post-season awards and honors, including: Trent M. '19, Cole M. '19, Jacob S. '20, Hunter J. '20, Zach S. '20, Ryan B. '19, Owen C. '21, Tucker D. '20, Alex L. '19, and Coleman P. '19.

Off the field, the Knights partnered with the "Little Knights" hosting two different camps for lower school aged students. The team also took time over the summer to serve with Love Link Ministries as a team.





VOLLEYBALL

The CCS Lady Knights Volleyball team completed another stellar season, winning 19 of their last 23 matches with a final record of 26-7. After a slow start, losing 3 out of their first 10 matches, the Lady Knights stood strong in September with a 13-1 run. The team was led by 5 CCS seniors, making this their third straight playoff appearance. While the team fell short in the semi-finals, they were victorious in securing the OSSAA Class 4A Regional Championship. The team will miss the outgoing seniors, two of which competed on the Varsity team for all four years of their high school career, Grace F. and Megan H., but Coach Ruiz looks forward to another exciting season next fall. Megan H. '19 was also selected to the OSSAA All-State Team.



SOFTBALL

This was the first year that the OSSAA offered districts for softball. The Lady Knights competed at a high level in a very tough district that included the state champion. With many experienced players returning and a growing number of talented middle school players gearing up to join the varsity team, the future is exciting for CCS Softball.



CROSS COUNTRY

CCS Cross Country had another exciting season in 2018, qualifying for State for the third consecutive year. The boys and girls grew individually breaking many personal records, but also as a team as they competed in the more competitive field of Class 3A for the first time.




SAFETY IN SPORTS:

KNIGHTS ATHLETIC TRAINING PROGRAM

Supporting students is a priority at Crossings Christian School, including their physical health both on and off the athletic fields or courts. Mrs. Jessica Jenkins is the full time athletic trainer at CCS, a rarity for schools of any size with only 65 full-time trainers in the state of Oklahoma. This is especially unique as CCS is the only Class A football program in Oklahoma with a full time athletic trainer on the field. Fans of CCS Athletics have likely seen Jessica on the sidelines of home athletic events taping, stretching, or icing down athletes pre-game and mid-play. However, much of her time is spent off the field providing preventative services, emergency care, and therapeutic intervention for CCS student athletes and visiting athletes as well.

Jessica has been a certified athletic trainer (AT) for 15 years and has worked with CCS students for the past nine years, the last five in a full-time capacity. She brings experience from her past work with McBride Orthopedic Hospital, Integris, and SWOSU, which was also where she received her Bachelors and Masters in 2003 and 2005. As an athletic trainer, Mrs. Jenkins spends her days in the training room as well as in the classroom.



**AN ATHLETIC TRAINER SHOULD BE
REQUIRED FOR EVERY ATHLETIC
PROGRAM. JESSICA DOES WORK THAT
COACHES ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO
DO – MOST IMPORTANTLY HELPING WITH
PREVENTING INJURIES, BUT ALSO HELPING
ATHLETES RETURN FROM INJURY AS
EFFICIENTLY AND SAFELY AS POSSIBLE.”**

**COACH KEATHLY
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH**

Middle and upper school student athletes receive both pre and post season care through the CCS Athletic Training Office including evaluations, diagnoses, injury support and individualized rehabilitation protocols to support student-athletes through all aspects of injuries before returning to play. Mrs. Jenkins has provided post-surgical support through rehabilitation plans for a variety of student injuries including ACL reconstruction, labrum repair, clavicle repair, meniscus repair, and radius/ulna fixation. Jessica treats students through her vast experience and knowledge along with the variety of modalities available on campus like whirlpools, electrical stimulation, ultrasound, TENS units, moist hot packs, and a range of cryotherapy options. Additional rehabilitation equipment in the athletic training office include treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, free weights, balance training balls, and foam rollers.

In addition to individualized student support, Jessica provides training for all CCS staff members over classroom emergency procedures, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and how to handle severe allergic reactions. Using the “Return-to-Learn” and “Return-to-Play” programs, she also provides training and ongoing support for standardized concussion policies and procedures as well as preventative and daily monitoring post-concussion care. Jessica also ensures that every CCS head coach is certified in both CPR and AED use and fully understands and complies with the school Emergency Action Plan. Ninth through twelfth grade students are also learning what it means to be an athletic trainer in Mrs. Jenkins’ Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness classes in which students are able to obtain their certification in American Red Cross First Aid, CPR, and AED usage. Students are also given the opportunity to serve as student trainers and provide needed support for the football and basketball seasons. This year’s student

athletic trainers include Kenzie E. '19 who has served for the last 4 years, Stone C. '19, Anna B. '21, Izzy M. '21 and Elisabeth S. '21.

Over the past nine years, Mrs. Jenkins’ support of student athletes has grown and become an invaluable part of the CCS Athletic Program. According to Jessica, her favorite part of athletic training is “being able to help athletes from the moment they get injured until they return to competition. Watching them fight through pain and adversity to accomplish their goals is so rewarding. I have been able to watch CCS Athletics become successful in so many areas and I’m fortunate to be able to have a small part in that.” CCS students, parents, and staff are grateful for her efforts and the impact her services and knowledge continue to provide the school.



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THE MISSION OF CROSSINGS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

IS TO PARTNER WITH
PARENTS AND
CHURCH

TO DEVELOP
CHRIST-
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SERVANT
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WHO ARE
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PARTNERING WITH PARENTS & CHURCH



Partnering with parents and church is foundational to accomplishing the mission of Crossings Christian School. It is designed to support students through the three strongest and most impactful relationships in their youth - their families, their church, and their teachers. This unique partnership between the home, the church, and the school provides a comprehensive and tightly woven support system; as

described in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "A cord of three strands is not easily broken."

Examples of this partnership can be seen daily across campus. Each week parents and members of the staff and board join together in prayer for the community and each of the 1100 students by name. Joshua Beck, Dean of Spiritual Formation, is thankful for Parents Who Pray as it's "been a great way for parents to partner with the school by covering it in prayer. It's an incredibly encouraging time of fellowship and a great way to refocus on Christ in the middle of the week."

Visiting pastors and ministry partners frequent the campus to share in chapel, Bible studies, and the classroom. Youth pastors are encouraged to visit their students and are provided free passes for athletic and fine arts events, in support of the ongoing mentoring relationship.



DEVELOPING CHRIST-CENTERED SERVANT LEADERS

Developing Christ-centered servant leaders is the heart of Crossings Christian School. Christ himself is the model of servant leadership, as shown in the official verse of CCS, "the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28.

CCS understands the magnitude of this task and focuses on the mission at all times, always seeking opportunities to serve. Preschool and lower school students are serving others through their weekly "Change for a Dollar" program and showing God's love through prayers, notes, and goodies in hospital waiting rooms across the city.

As students grow in maturity, so do their service opportunities. Middle school students gather donations for others and take time to serve alongside one another through opportunities at various organizations including the Regional Food Bank and Infant Crisis Center.

As young adults, upper school students are given opportunities to serve others on a more personal level, practicing the call to be the hands and feet of Christ. This fall, ninth through twelfth graders spent their time with friends at the Special Olympics, Wings Special Needs Community, and tutoring the students of Parmelee Elementary in the OKCPS system.



3 SPIRITUALLY PREPARED

Ensuring that students are spiritually prepared for life is the third component of Crossings Christian School's mission. Proverbs 22 calls us to "start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

CCS is intentional in answering this call through prayer and implementation. This fall, the office of Spiritual Formation was created with a mission to serve the students, parents, and teachers in all aspects in their walk with Christ.



Joshua Beck, Dean of Spiritual Formation, is eager to help students and staff "find the truth and beauty of the Gospel while learning how to live it daily." Through his work and support from Franci MacDonald, Spiritual Formation Director for Upper School Girls, Connie Graves, Chaplain, and others, they spend much of their time serving as a listening ear and prayer partners for students.

Spiritual development is a part of daily life at CCS through biblical integration. Middle

and upper school students also participate in Spiritual Emphasis Week each fall with daily speakers, break-out sessions, and small group discussions. This year students "Got Back to the Basics of Christianity" digging deep into what Christianity looks like in their lives and providing time for students to tackle honest questions about their faith in today's world.

All students have optional Bible study times, including discipleship opportunities for older students to participate in lower and middle school study groups. Recently retired teachers, Barbara Fowler and Ann Chesney, serve alongside Mrs. Mac with almost 70 upper school girls weekly. Ninth through twelfth grade boys are also enjoying their time together, eating over 10 pizzas together every Friday with 40-50 boys joining in as they study the book of John.

15,000+

HOURS SERVED THROUGH SERVANT LEADERSHIP

70+

HOURS OF CHAPEL

250+

HOURS OF OPTIONAL BIBLE STUDIES



4 ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

CCS students are growing academically, as exemplified by our recent alums. Since the first CCS graduate walked the stage at her personal commencement ceremony in 2011, CCS has partnered with 201 graduates. The academic merits of which include 1 US Presidential Scholar, 1 Questbridge Scholar, 3 National Merit Finalists, 4 National Merit Commended Scholars, 1 National AP Scholar, 41 AP Scholars, 10 AP Scholars with Distinction, 10 AP Scholars with Honor, and 87 Oklahoma Academic Scholars.

The most recent group of CCS alums, the Class of 2018, was comprised of 53 graduates who were collectively awarded over \$4 million in scholarships, an average of \$75,000 per student! These students also averaged a 3.7 GPA and an ACT of 26.4. For comparison, the national ACT average is 20.6 and the OK ACT average is 20.4. According to the ACT's Annual Report, only 16% of Oklahoma students met college readiness benchmarks in English, math, science, and reading. 43% of students met zero benchmarks. However, CCS graduates are creating their own statistics and proving their college readiness. As a recent alum from the Class of 2018 said after attaining a 4.0 GPA for his first semester, "College is really easy because of the great and challenging education I received at Crossings."

Academic preparedness is evident in a CCS Alum, but the work begins with even smallest Knights in the preschool and lower school divisions. Every student at CCS enjoys a robust and well-rounded education introducing basic reading and mathematical skills to the youngest of learners. Preschool through fourth graders also spend time learning through the computer lab, foreign language, music, art, and physical education classes multiple times a week. Additionally, students grow through the integration of Bal-A-Vis-X, a rhythmic exercise technique using balance, auditory and vision to enhance full brain and body integration learning.

CCS middle school students are also challenged daily through a variety of disciplines and balanced learning opportunities. All fifth through eighth grade students participate in a fine arts of their choosing, physical education or a sport of their choice as well as courses in literature and writing, history, Bible, technology, language and math enrichment, and STEM. College preparation is evident even in these middle school years as students learn to write using MLA format and learn algebraic equations through "Hands-On Equations" and optional participation in OSSAA academic and Lego robotics teams. This wide range of courses allows Crossings students to explore a variety of learning environments and activities before entering their high school years.

Academic rigor addresses the whole student, providing CCS upper schoolers opportunities to experience both core and specialty courses under the direction of a highly qualified staff, 65% of whom hold an advanced degree. Ninth through twelfth grade students have a vast range of course offerings and activities and the opportunity to learn in cutting edge science, robotic, computer, and language labs as well as through the CCS 1-to-1 digital technology program.

Additional CCS Upper School courses and activities include:

- STEM, robotics, digital media, and introduction to engineering
- 19 different AP course opportunities
- Vocal music, band, orchestra, theatre arts, and visual arts
- Cross examination and Lincoln Douglas debate

In spring 2018, 103 CCS students took 190 AP exams in 16 varied subjects. 75% of test takers scored 3 or above, earning college credit. In addition, our upper school students received 499 dual credit hours -- college credits earned at CCS and transferable to most colleges. Next year, CCS will become the first private school in Oklahoma to offer students the ability to earn the AP Capstone Diploma. CCS students are the very proof of academic preparedness.





class of
2018

53
GRADS

\$4 MILLION
AWARDED IN
SCHOLARSHIPS

\$75,000
AVERAGE
SCHOLARSHIP
PER STUDENT

3.7
AVERAGE GPA

26.4
AVERAGE ACT

22
OKLAHOMA
ACADEMIC
SCHOLARS

STAYING THE COURSE



In spring 2010, I became the first Academic Counselor at CCS. Excited to take on this role was an understatement; I was thrilled to be working for the school my family had been a part of since 2003. Being part of the upper school team and fulfilling the mission of “academically preparing students for college and life” was a job I was called to do. Typically, when you take a role in an organization, there are plans and processes in place. You study what’s been done and analyze what works and what doesn’t. When a high school is being born, everything has to be created.

By December of 2010, the excitement had waned and self-doubt crept in. I didn’t feel equipped to take on this responsibility. Colleges didn’t know we existed. Other high schools didn’t know we existed. Parents with high school aged children didn’t know we existed. Having to explain to colleges that, ‘Yes, that’s correct, Ms. Albertson, is ranked 1 of 1’ was difficult. When asked for our school profile, I would have to reply, “We don’t really have data to report yet . . . We haven’t actually had a graduating class yet . . . We don’t have any ACT or SAT data yet . . . No, we don’t offer AP classes yet.”

In 2012, I was invited to attend the North American Coalition of Christian College Professionals (NACCAP) conference. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jan Miranda, Director of College Counseling at Prestonwood Christian Academy. Dr. Miranda was the rock star of academic counseling! I had to attend just to hear what she had to say. Attending this conference would be a pivotal moment for me.

It was during the informal meet-and-greet time of the conference when I had my, let’s call it, “moment”. I was sitting with a group of seven or so other Christian school counselors from across the region including Dr. Miranda. They all seemed to know each other and were sharing school stories. When asked about myself and my school, I began the introduction with enthusiasm and ended with this statement, “I don’t think I’m able to do this job.”

Yes, the celebratory mood of a reunion of colleagues was diminished with the negative statement of the newbie. Instead of dismissing me, this group took me seriously and, more than that, shepherded me, especially Jan Miranda. She called and emailed me regularly and freely shared the resources she created for her students with me. The years of experience and effort she put into her academic counseling program were shared with me at no cost and with no restrictions. Jan instructed me to attend additional training courses and implement new software programs and her senior camp and college application process is also now an annual tradition at CCS known as “Camp College.”

Methodically and intentionally, with much prayer, and a strong upper school team and faith-walking parents, the academic counseling program at CCS was taking shape. I am so thankful for the families who had the faith to send their children to CCS during these early upper school years. These ‘faithwalkers’ believed in the mission of the school and trusted in God to work through us to fulfill it. With God’s guidance and power, I know we did so.

The success of CCS is not dependent on any one person but is completely dependent on everyone -- our faculty, staff, students, parents, and grandparents, putting Christ first in all things and staying true to the mission of our school.

– KERI SHIELDS, ACADEMIC COUNSELOR

KNIGHTS NOW

2011



Sierra Albertson Occhipinti '11 married Everett Occhipinti on March 18, 2018 in Princeville, Kaua'i and had their honeymoon on the Big Island. Sierra currently teaches 4th grade at Crossings Christian School.

2014

Rachel Coffey '14 graduated from the University of Arkansas in May 2018 and is currently living in Kansas City, MO working in the Information Department of a Fabric and Textile Manufacturer. She is also very involved in serving at her church, Vive Culture.

Jackson Hill '14 lives and works in OKC and recently began culinary school at Francis Tuttle.

Eva MacDonald '14 was a recipient in the Nursing Program's Pinning Ceremony at OCCC in December. She is pursuing a job in the PICU department at Norman Regional Hospital.

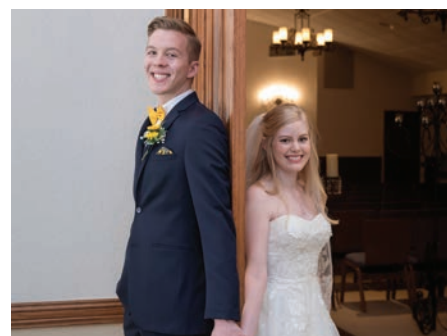
Devyn Dennis McAdams '14 graduated from UCO in July of 2017 with a degree in psychology. She married Thomas McAdams on August 7, 2018 and resides in Virginia Beach, VA.



Cameron Shivers O'Neill '14 married Jacob on December 29, 2018 in Dripping Springs, TX. Cameron owns a wedding photography business called Lila Mae Weddings. She is based out of Washington, but travels to Texas and Oklahoma for weddings as well.



Gabe Richison '14 and his wife, Kaytlin, have a son, Lane, who is 3. He is farming 1600 acres, has 150 head of cattle and manages 7 rent houses. He also guides duck hunts for people from all over the US and is doing what he loves.



Alexandria Fredrickson Smith '14 married fellow alumni **Avery Smith '14** on May 10, 2018. Alexandria is currently

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



SHELBY WILKINSON '14

Shelby Wilkinson, a member of the CCS class of 2014, recently completed the Life Sciences and Management dual-degree program at the University of Pennsylvania, administered jointly by the Wharton School of Business and the College of Arts & Sciences. Shelby graduated summa cum laude in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Economics, with a finance concentration, and a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, with a Molecular and Cell Biology concentration.

At graduation, Shelby was recognized for outstanding academic excellence through being awarded both the Edna R. Green Prize in Biology, as well as the William B. Gordon Award from the Wharton School. She also won the 2018 Roy and Diana Vagelos Prize for Achievement in Scientific Research for her work concerning the molecular basis of exocytosis and its relevance to cell migration and tumor invasion, as well as research performed during an internship at Vertex Pharmaceuticals working on cystic fibrosis drug candidates. During her junior year at Penn, Shelby was also elected into the prestigious national academic honor society Phi Beta Kappa.

Shelby has endeavored to learn as much as possible about the translation of innovative scientific research into meaningful clinical therapies, aided through her work with Wharton's Mack Institute for Innovation Management and as a Licensing Intern with the Office of Technology Transfer at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Shelby also formed part of an early-stage biotech team, NanoXCell, building a clinical development and commercial plan for a gene therapy innovation that reached the final stages of funding competitions, while at the same time serving as Consulting Director for the Penn Undergraduate Biotech Society. Shelby's passion lies in employing a cross-disciplinary understanding to aid in the development and commercialization of therapies for rare diseases with high unmet need.

Shelby is currently working in Singapore for Tessa Therapeutics, a company focused on the development and commercialization of cancer immunotherapies. Employing both her scientific and business training in a commercial and corporate development role, she is enjoying the opportunity to gain an international perspective on healthcare and the development of therapeutics.

attending law school at the University of Oklahoma. Avery received a computer engineering degree from Oklahoma Christian and is working for Paycom.

Bradley Weast '14 graduated from Abilene Christian University in December with a Bachelor's of Science in child and family services along with a minor in Bible, missions, and ministry. She recently began graduate school at ACU to pursue her masters in higher education concentrating in conflict resolution. Her dream is to work in residence or student life at a university.

Hannah Winemiller '14 will graduate in May from Oklahoma State University with a degree in strategic communications. She has enjoyed both her time at Kappa Alpha Theta and being involved on campus. Last year she served as the Executive Director of the Varsity Revue.

Chandler Wooten '14 spent her first two years at OSU and pledged Theta. She then transferred to the University of Oklahoma for her junior and senior year and recently completed her first year of nursing school at OSU/OKC.

2015

Taylor Broyles '15 currently works at Travis Watkins Tax Law and Accounting firm while pursuing her bachelors in communications. Upon completing her degree, Taylor plans to attend law school.

Nathan Childs '15 is attending Dallas Baptist University pursuing a major in Christian studies and plans on attending seminary after he graduates.



Anna Pitzer '15 is a senior studying marriage and family therapy at Oklahoma State University and will graduate in May 2019. She plans to

attend graduate school to earn a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. She enjoys spending her free time with her three month old Great Dane, Boone.

Cole Travis '15 is pursuing a degree in finance with a minor in management from Oklahoma State University. He is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

2016

Frankie Karns Birdsley '16 married her high school sweetheart, Trey Birdsley on June 27, 2018. He left for basic military training for the United States Air Force and they will be headed to his duty station in March. Frankie is also pursuing her bachelor's degree in mathematics.

Dylan Dennis '16 is working on a Master of Architecture degree at the University of Kansas. He is in his third year and on track to graduate in May 2021.

Harrison Hill '16 is a junior at OSU majoring in agricultural communications, with minors in agricultural economics and agricultural business. He continues to work as a photographer and graphic designer on the side.

Mason Hooper '16 is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in physiology and pre-pharmacy. He is a member of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity currently serving on the executive council. He enjoys intramural sports and volunteering at Integris Hospital.



Katie Johnson '16 is attending the University of Denver pursuing a double major in criminal justice and psychology in order to gain employment at the FBI, CIA or another branch of the government. She is currently studying abroad in Ireland this semester and loving the experience.

Jordan McKee '16 has been accepted to the nursing program at the University of Arkansas. She has been on the Chancellor's list for three semesters.



Abrie Richision '16 is a junior at the College of Charleston, in South Carolina. She is double majoring in English and International Studies and subsequently has studied abroad in Ireland, and will travel to Spain next year. She is on the Dean's distinguished list and will be graduating in 2020.



Brett Szymanski '16 is in his third year at OU, majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry, and on a pre-med track. Some of his current campus involvements include College Bowl Chair, member of Campus Activities Council General Council and Vice President for his fraternity, Beta Upsilon Chi (Brothers Under Christ). He also is a member Alpha Lamda Delta National, students with a 3.5 GPA and in the top 20% of their class during their first year of college and was the recipient of the JoAnn Trow undergraduate scholarship.

Grant Wilkinson '16 is pursuing a mechanical engineering degree with a business minor from Rice University.

Zack Woody '16 is attending the University of Oklahoma. He is taking classes in psychology and hopes to work in the field after college.

Drew Wooten '16 is a junior at Oklahoma State University. He is a Beta and is pursuing a degree in mechanical and aeronautical engineering.

2017



Andi Butler '17 is majoring in strategic intelligence and is scheduled to graduate in May 2020 from Liberty University. She also serves as a community group leader.

Camryn Conroy '17 is currently a sophomore at Pace University and has recently been accepted to study abroad at the University of Mannheim in Germany for the spring semester of this year.

Ian Cox '17 is a sophomore at Texas Christian University where he is a member of the Honors College and is studying business. He is also actively involved with Fort Worth's Fortress Youth Development Center where he serves as a mentor.

Maddie Huff '17 attends the University of Oklahoma where she is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and is on the President's Honor Roll for earning a 4.0. She is a public relations major and is participating in the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communications British Media Study Abroad Program in London, England this summer.

Reagan Proctor '17 is pursuing a nursing degree and is active in her sorority, Pi Beta Phi, at the University of Oklahoma.

Natalie Ramer '17 is attending the University of Oklahoma. She is pursuing a degree in broadcast meteorology. She is active in Chi Omega Sorority and has served as a Soonerton Chair, Crimson Wishes Executive Committee, and Homecoming Chair Assistant. She is currently on the College Bowl Executive Committee and is the Scandals Vocal Director.

Kayla Sparks '17 is in her second year at OSU getting a degree in entrepreneurship and marketing where she pledged TriDelta.

Jayce Strunk '17 is majoring in communication disorders with a minor in business at the University of Arkansas and eventually wants to attend grad school to become a speech pathologist. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi and the honors college. She is also involved in several campus activities including Events Operation Chair for Hogs for Hope (Children's Miracle Network), Vice President of Membership of New Greek Council, and is a "I Am Third" group leader.

Layne Taylor '17 recently moved to Nevada to study nutrition at the University of Nevada.

Cade Travis '17 is pursuing a degree in finance from Oklahoma State University. He is a member of the Beta Upsilon Chi (Brothers Under Christ) fraternity and is the Vice President of the Finance Management Association.

Emily Wang '17 spent a year studying at OU before transitioning to Wheaton College in Illinois this fall. She is pursuing a degree in psychology.

Grace Winemiller '17 is pursuing a degree in biology at the University of Oklahoma. She loves being a part of Kappa Alpha Theta where she is Scholarship Director and volunteers weekly with the Boys and Girls Club.

2018



Parker Balan '18 participated in OU's annual University Sing theatrical production. His fraternity, Kappa Sigma, was paired with the Delta Gamma sorority and won best costume design.

Andrew Clinkenbeard '18 is enjoying his first year at Baylor University studying mechanical engineering.

Mason Coffey '18 is currently a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma, majoring in nursing and is a member of Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity.

**ALUMNI:
WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**

**DO YOU HAVE
NEWS TO SHARE?**

**E-MAIL UPDATES TO
ALUMNI@
CROSSINGSSCHOOL.ORG**

Gabe Cohlmlia '18 is a freshman at OU, majoring in biochemistry, in pursuit of a career in the medical field. He was selected to be a member of the 58th President's Leadership Class and was recently chosen to study abroad with PLC in Italy next summer. Gabe is also a counselor on OU's high school leadership conference executive committee and will be leading a group of high school juniors in February. He pledged Beta Theta Pi fraternity.



Rylie Gibbs '18 is a freshman at Clemson University. She is majoring in biology with a minor in Spanish. She pledged and was initiated to Gamma Phi Beta.

Grace Hill '18 is enjoying her freshman year at OBU majoring in student ministry. She is a freshman senator in the Student Government Association, a member of the OBU climbing team, and plays on a club soccer team.

Tyler Jackson '18 is attending the University of Central Oklahoma where is studying to become a chiropractor.

Hallie Locke '18 is attending the University of Oklahoma majoring in business marketing. She has an online boutique called Shop Bauble and is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Caleb Parduhn '18 is enjoying college life on the OSU campus in Stillwater while attending classes at Northern Oklahoma College. Caleb and his roommates love the new experiences while celebrating Cowboy traditions.

Abri Pocock '18 is a freshman at the University of Central Oklahoma majoring in musical theatre with a minor in entrepreneurial management.

Ellie Rahill '18 is attending the University of Oklahoma, pursuing a degree in marketing, with minors in finance and sports management. She is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, and serves on the executive committee of Soonerton.

Alexis Redwine '18 will be serving in Brazil this summer with the SNU SIMS (Students in Missions) team. She will be involved in a variety of ministries including sports camps and children and coffee shop ministries.

Nancy Wilkinson '18 is pursuing a degree in biochemistry and cellular biology with a business minor from Trinity University.

alumni

BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL

The Inaugural Crossings Alumni Basketball Invitational was held on Friday, December 21. The current Crossings varsity basketball teams played against the Crossings alumni basketball players in the competition gym. Over 60 alums returned to the school to watch and participate in the game. After the game, alums were treated to Teds.



STAY UPDATED ON
ALL ALUMNI EVENTS

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SAVE

THE

DATE

SPRING BREAK

THE MUSIC MAN

16TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

US EOY AWARDS CEREMONY

MS EOY AWARDS CEREMONIES

2019 COMMENCEMENT

MARCH 18-22

APRIL 5 & 6

APRIL 22

MAY 2

MAY 23

MAY 23