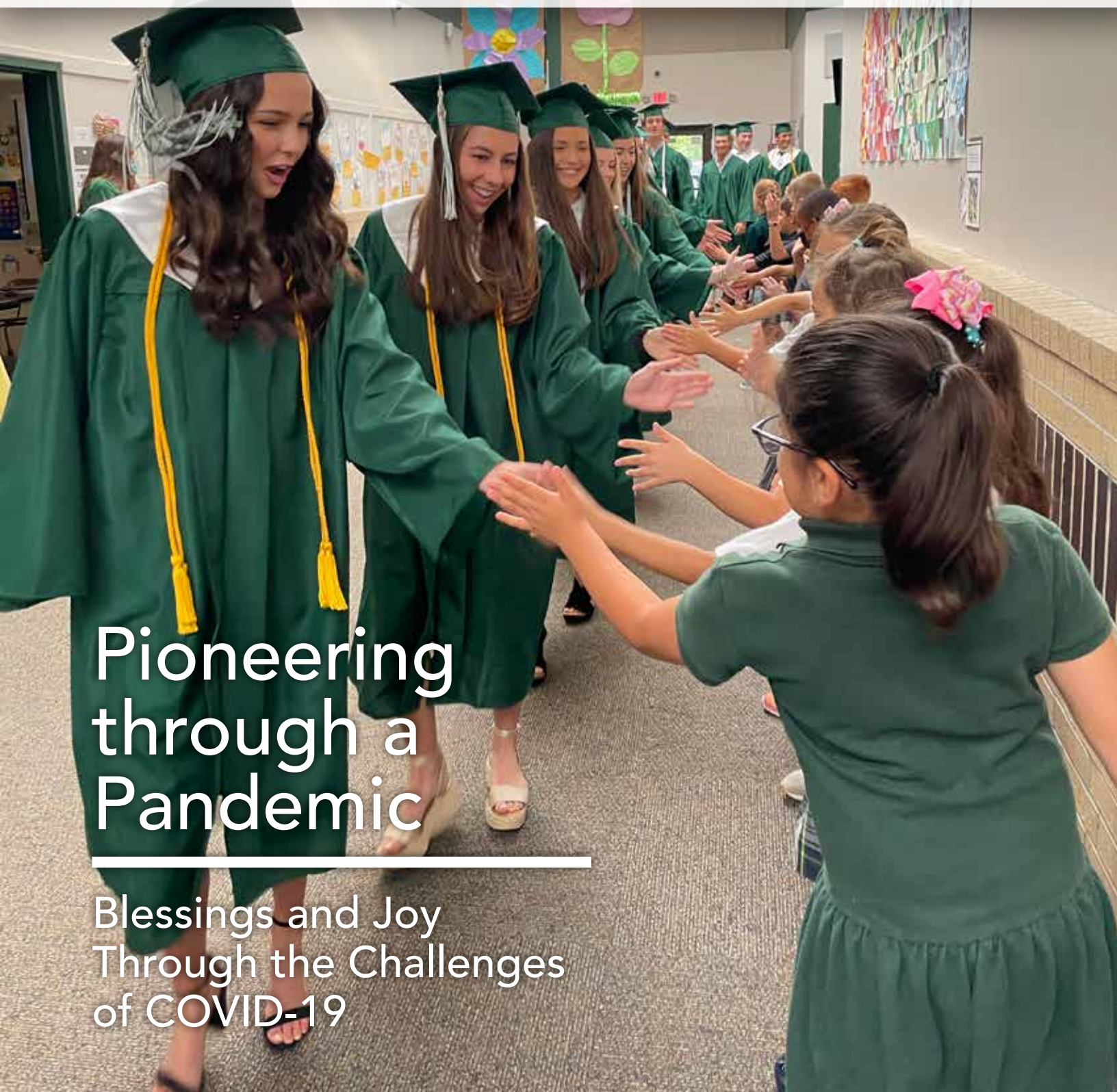


# LEGACY

of Lutheran South Academy



## Pioneering through a Pandemic

Blessings and Joy  
Through the Challenges  
of COVID-19



## Honor Code

### Live Honestly

I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and I will strive to have Christ-like integrity by respecting myself and others.

### Serve Humbly

I will show people that I care by being the hands and feet of Christ as I serve my school and my community.

### Accept Responsibility

I will take responsibility for my actions in my academic and personal endeavors.

## LEAH Schools Board of Directors

Mr. Kurt Rosenhagen,  
Chairman

Mr. Jonte' Greer,  
Vice Chairman

Mrs. Elizabeth Killinger,  
Secretary/Treasurer

The Rev. Daniel W.  
Schepmann

Mr. Mike Hergenrader

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Mrs. Jeanette Holt

Mr. Jae K. Moore



## Mission Statement

Lutheran South Academy exists to secure the immediate future of our students by preparing them academically for their college years, to secure their extended future by preparing them to be Christian leaders as adults, and to secure their eternal future by developing their relationship with their Lord and Savior.

### Spirituality

Lutheran South Academy's main goal is for every student to develop a saving relationship with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The ideal graduate will not only possess this personal relationship, but will also be a Christian model and witness to the world in which they live. Graduates will live life abundantly assured of their eternal salvation.

### Academics

The academic potential of every student will be met while attending Lutheran South Academy. Understanding that there are a wide variety of academic abilities represented, Lutheran South Academy will provide a high quality academic program to meet the needs of everyone from average students to National Merit finalists.

### Involvement

The key to a well-rounded education is involvement in school activities outside the formal curriculum. Lutheran South Academy will provide experiences for its students, ranging from fine arts to athletics, that will improve skills and increase social maturity. The students at LSA will be involved, happy, and feel like an important member of the LSA family.

### Leadership

Leadership must be taught, modeled and practiced. The ideal graduate of Lutheran South Academy will provide Christian leadership in the home, church, community, and workplace for the next generation. Our society needs leaders with strong, moral courage to stand for what is right in our changing world.

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of Lutheran South Academy

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"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Why start with these words out of the Bible? Because this is life! This is a life rich with purpose and meaning! This is life filled with hope and peace, both in good times and bad ones. This is the life promised by our loving God and Father! Please tell me, who doesn't want this for their children?

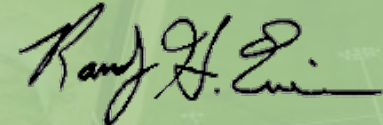
The students who attend Lutheran South Academy grow in the understanding of what God has planned for them. Each individual child comes to know and recognize the gifts and talents God has created within them. Every day they develop a growing awareness of the plans God has for them, and yes, plans to prosper and not harm!

Let me ask you this, "Do you want to be involved with shaping and influencing the lives of children toward the plans God has for them?" Then NOW is the time to step up and commit. NOW is the time to invest in the future of the students who attend LSA. They are the future leaders of our cities, states and country. Our world is starving for true leaders, leaders who know and understand who they are and why they are here – to serve God and serve one another.

At LSA we have the privilege and joy to help students take learning moments and build an understanding that will serve them and others for a lifetime. We get to equip students academically and spiritually to face each day with ambition and excitement.

We shape lives and you can help. I invite you to participate in this year's Lutheran South Academy Annual Fund. Join me in supporting the mission of Lutheran South Academy – securing the future for our students! Whether it is today, next week, or next month, give generously, knowing you are helping young Pioneers discover and learn the plans God has for them.

Blessings to you and your loved ones,



Randy H. Einem  
Executive Director - Lutheran Education Association of Houston



Thank you for entrusting your children to the teachers and leaders of Lutheran South Academy (LSA). I pray that your children and your family are blessed with a tremendous education, strengthening experiences, positive relationships, and growing hearts for Christ as part of the LSA family.

LEAH (Lutheran Education Association of Houston) started in 1949 as LHS (Lutheran High School Association) with one school at I-45 and Woodridge – Lutheran High School. LHS relocated and grew to become the preK-12 school you know and love as LSA. Over the years LEAH added three other schools – LHN (Lutheran High North, 9-12), WLPA (Westlake Lutheran Preparatory Academy, preK-8) and LDA (LEAH Schools Downtown Academy, early childhood) – all with the same goals and purpose as LSA.

LEAH's Mission is to operate and champion exemplary Lutheran schools in the Houston area to expand Christ's kingdom. We trust that you will agree that LSA provides that exemplary experience where your children and family can grow in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man (Luke 2:52).

I have been part of the LSA and LEAH family since the mid-90s as my kids benefited from their years at LSA. Their experiences at LSA prepared them to excel as adults, strengthened them socially and deepened their relationships with Christ. My wife and I are thrilled to have our 7 grandkids benefit and grow likewise as students at LSA.

If you, like me, value the ministry of LSA to your children and family, don't keep it a secret. Share why our school is important to you with your friends so they might also benefit by joining the LSA family. Support LSA with your time and resources so we can continue to impact others in the kingdom of Christ.



Kurt Rosenhagen  
Chairman, LEAH Board of Directors



Dear LSA Family and Friends,

The theme for the 2021-2022 school year is "Show Me the Way" based on Psalm 143:8. This theme was chosen last spring by the class of 2022. Our school theme is very fitting as we continue to learn to navigate this COVID-19 world. We are looking for ways to navigate learning, school activities, and gatherings all while showing love and respect for differing opinions.

In true Pioneer spirit, we continue to steer our course leading the "the way" in securing the future for our students, our families, and our community. The collaborative innovation of our faculty and staff has continued to make education both possible and successful. Last year's theme of "No Fear" was truly embraced by our community, and this year we look to entrust the future to God as we follow the path that He lays before us by "Showing Us the Way."

I know I speak for our entire staff when I say that we feel blessed to be a small part of the long history of this amazing ministry. God is alive at LSA and working in the hearts of our staff, students, and families as we learn, serve, and grow together.

Thank you for your generosity in providing our students an excellent Christian education! A variety of resources is needed to provide the quality of facilities, academics, programs, and financial aid that LSA is able to offer. I would like to personally thank you for your wonderful generosity in years past and your continued commitment to our future. There are exciting things in store for our campus as we work to secure the future and cultivate an outstanding educational environment for our students. We are truly grateful to have such strong support from our school families, alumni, community, and friends.

Thank you for your sacrificial giving and your courageous generosity in support of Lutheran South Academy. May the Pioneer spirit be alive in each of us as we glorify His name through our lives of service to Him and work towards "Securing The Future" of the students placed in our care. To God be the Glory!

Your Servant in Christ,



Steve Garrabrant  
Interim Head of School

# FALL Highlights



^ We began the 2020-2021 school year with mandatory masks, temperature screening, **Ruvna screening** and virtual chapels and events.

LSA raised **\$8,322.35** for St. John Lutheran Church and Little Lambs Preschool in St. Charles, LA, after Hurricane Laura.

**Lower School** held a virtual book fair with the theme of Time Machine.

**Middle School Varsity Volleyball** finished their season as the State Runner-Up and Conference Champs. v



^ The High School Cheer Team hosted a cheer camp for our littlest **Pioneer cheerleaders**.

**High School Drama One Act Play** won the district competition. >

LSA's Second Annual **Faculty and Family Annual Fund Drive** in early November raised over \$150,000 in just 14 days which will be used to grow, develop, and support the many programs at LSA.

Middle School Band Students, **Ben Edwards ('25)** and **Ella Almrud ('25)**, submitted recordings to TMEA Region Band and received a seat in the Region Band. Ben earned 1st chair.



The LSA Choral Department had three students participate in the 2020 TPSMEA Middle School Honor Choir. Those who participated were **Maddalyn Richert ('26)**, **Alexa Masson ('26)**, and **Jillian Lopez ('25)**. >

Author, Michelle Williams, visited **PK-5th** grade students virtually and shared about her student publishing program called "iwrite."



^ **Wyatt Maher ('21)** and **Emma Quinton ('21)**, were crowned LSA 2020 Homecoming King and Queen with crown bearers **Kate Schneider ('33)** and **Finn Butler ('33)**.

**Lower School PTL** set up an outdoor pumpkin patch for the Lower School students. >



# 2020 WINTER Highlights

**Middle School Football** finished with a perfect season as the Conference Champions. >

LSA launched **"Esports"** as a new competitive gaming activity. Students met for this activity after school.

A newly expanded **press box** at the football field was completed.

LSA **High School Volleyball** finished their season in the Elite Eight.

LSA had a special Christmas visit from **Frosty, Santa, Buddy the Elf, and the Gingerbread Man**. These characters welcomed students to school the week before Christmas break. >



^ **LSA High School Baseball** raised almost \$3,000 to purchase, wrap, and then give Christmas gifts to three different families working with Champions Caring for the Community.

< LSA celebrated **National Lutheran Schools Week** with many fun dress up theme days and activities to celebrate the week.

LSA hosted an **online Christmas art show** over Christmas Break which featured a piece of artwork created by an LSA artist each day on social media.

The LSA **Middle School Drama** presented "A Christmas Carol" virtually for LSA family and friends.

LSA **Varsity Cheer** competed at TAPPS State Cheer.

LSA partnered with LINC Ministry to support **Toys for Joy 2020**. Many children and youth experienced JOY and heard the message of HOPE in Christ at the end of a long and difficult year. Over 1,200 toys were donated from many area churches and schools to bless LINC Ministries.

< **LSA HAMUN students** participated in a virtual HAMUN Conference. LSA's **Luke Anderson** ('22) won best position paper in the crisis committee on "The Colonization of Mars," and **Will Spencer** ('21) won Best Delegate for his role of Jacob Abbott in the crisis committee on "The Salem Witch Trials."

**Ian Watkins** ('28) was the Champion of the Lower School Spelling Bee. Ian moved on to represent LSA at the Private Schools in Harris County Spelling Bee on February 11th. **Kilian Thomson** ('28) was the runner-up.



**Haleigh Pham** ('25) won the title of LSA Middle School Spelling Bee Champion for 2021 and moved on to Private Schools Harris County Spelling Bee. Haleigh then advanced to the Houston Public Media Spelling Bee Test, she was one of two private school students to qualify.

The LSA **High School Band** had the privilege to work with Dr. Richard R. Fischer, Distinguished Professor of Music, from Concordia University Chicago.

**Ron Varghese** ('21) earned a seat in the TPSMEA State Band. Ron performed four etudes (snare, two mallet marimba, four mallet marimba and timpani) in competition with others and earned a seat in the all-area TMEA band. Ron also learned three additional etudes and earned a seat in the TPSMEA all state band (all private schools in the state of Texas).

The **LSA Boys Soccer team** were District Champions, Regional Champions, and competed in the Final Four at the state tournament.

**Andreas Beek** ('21) was named a finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Program. This is quite a prestigious honor with less than .2% of all students that take the PSAT qualify as National Merit Finalists worldwide.

LSA **8th Grade Boys Basketball Team** finished as state runner-up.

**4th grade** hosted their annual Living Museum. This year, the Living Museum was presented to families and friends virtually while current lower school students were able to attend in person. Students represent real-life historical figures and share their stories with spectators. v



Middle school students, **Lauren Ferguson** ('25), **Johanna Miles** ('25), **Jenna Bell** ('25), **Olivia Varanauski** ('27), and **Taryn Bladt** ('25), won a seat in the TPSMEA region band.

**Lower School W.I.N.G.S.** participated in "Shark Tank" to present their ideas.

Several students in the middle school bands competed in region band competitions, both TPSMEA and TMEA. **Ben Edwards** ('25) performed two etudes and the chromatic scale in competitions with private schools in the south section of Texas and won first chair! He also learned an additional 7

# 2021 SPRING Highlights



< Houston Astros Television, play-by-play announcer, **Bill Brown** came to speak to our **Pioneer Sports broadcasting class**.

LSA's **David Aguilera** ('21) earned his Eagle Scout.

LSA's **Tiger Cheung** ('21) and **Chase Turley** ('22) won the TAPPS Tennis Doubles State Championship.

LSA's **Boys Tennis** team finished 4th at the State Meet.



^ **LSA Drama** performed "The Addams Family Quarantine Concert Version" at Zion Lutheran Church in Pasadena.

scales and 2 additional etudes that he performed earned 1st chair in TMEA region. **Ella Almrud** ('25) also earned a seat in both the TPSMEA and TMEA region bands.

**Lower School** provided "blessing bags" for Houston Fire Department. >



**Darryl Scheer** ('21) and **Tori Burkett** ('21) were named Mr. and Mrs. LSA. >

**Amoire Hernandez** ('28) finished as singles runner-up at the Conference Middle School Tennis Competition. **Catalina Carpenter** ('25) finished third in the Girls Singles competition.

**Ben Winoske** ('30) won a \$10,000 tuition credit from the gala raffle.

LSA **Boys Track** won Regional Competition and the **Girls Track** team finished as runner-up.

Our first ever **LSA Virtual Gala** was successful and earned nearly \$200,000. Thank you to everyone who helped this become a success.

LSA **Lower School** held their annual Miles for Mission in which the students raised money for Houston Kids Against Hunger. v



< The **LSA Early Childhood** enjoyed their annual animal development curriculum where they get to see science in action.

LSA held its annual **Junior Ring Day Chapel** where the juniors received their class rings. During this special service, the senior class hands over the leadership role to the junior class and presents the class with the Senior Class Bible, which has been used by every senior class since 1961.

The **4th-6th graders** enjoyed a virtual author visit with Mr. Gregory Mone who spoke about his new book *Alantis*.

LSA's Varsity Baseball Coach, **Aaron Schneider**, earned his 200th career win.

LSA **Lower School** hosted a virtual STEAM night.

LSA **Lower School** hosted their Spring Book Fair in person and online with a theme of "Books in Bloom".

LSA **High School Academic Team** finishes 3rd at the TAPPS 5A Academic Competition. **Luke Anderson** ('22) wins the Science category and came in as runner-up in Spelling.

**Ayana Smith** ('22) wins Long jump with a jump of 18'10" and set a new TAPPS State Meet Record.

< **PTL** Supports teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week with many treats including an ice cream truck.





^ LSA held its annual in-person **all-school chapel** in May to complete the school year.

**LSA Band** won State for its 5th year in a row. >

**LSA Boys and Girls Track and Field** teams finished third at the TAPPS State Meet.

**Middle School Track** teams competed in Houston Lutheran Schools Track and Field Championship Meet. 8th grade boys, 7th grade boys and girls, and 6th grade boys all placed first at the meet and the 8th grade girls team finished second at the track meet.

**Cook Drager** ('26) set a new record in discuss of 94'10".

**LSA Varsity Baseball** team won their third consecutive State title.

**LSA High School Choir** finished 3rd at the State Competition.

**LSA Lower School** held their annual Daddy Daughter Dance and Mother Son Game Night.



^ Vype honored **Luke Harrison** ('21) as Private School Player of the Year.

Vype honored **LSA Baseball** team as the Private School team of the Year.

Vype magazine honored **Chase Turley** ('22) and **Tiger Cheung** ('21) as Men's Tennis Doubles Private School Team of the Year.

Vype honored **LSA Men's Soccer** team as Private School Team of the Year.

Vype honored **Coach Hagge** as the Men's Soccer Private School Coach of the Year.

**Sophie Gonzalez** ('21) was selected by the LSA high school staff as the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizen of the Year.

**LSA Athletics** launched their own website and the first ever Pioneer app.

**Ron Varghese** ('21) was named Valedictorian, and **Darryl Scheer** ('21) was named Salutatorian for LSA's Class of 2021.



^ LSA Rodeo Art had a very successful year. **Reese Strunk** ('23) won Best of Show, **Lily Coccek** ('23) and **Jillian Lopez-Danek** ('25) received gold medals for their drawings.

v **LSA Class of 2021** took their Senior Trip to Universal Studios.



**Alumni Highlight**

< **Tamara** ('97) & **Adrienne** ('98) helped Texas Children's Hospital roll out the COVID-19 vaccine. They were proud to do it together as Pioneer Alumni.





70th Commencement

# PIONEERS OF 2021

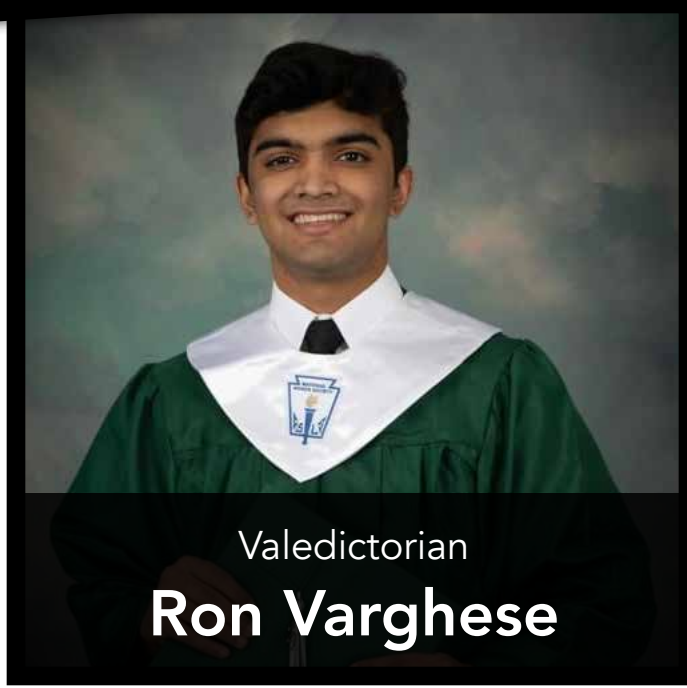


SENIOR DRIVE UP

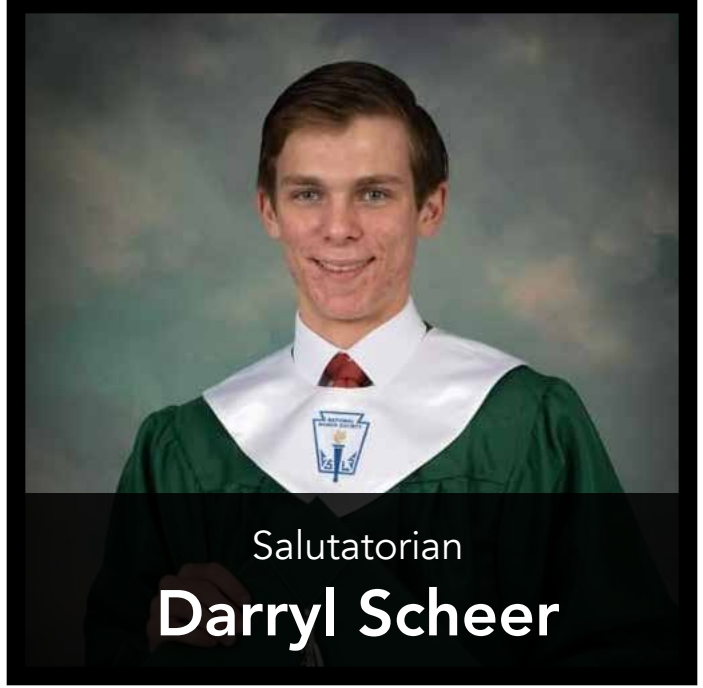
PIONEERS SINCE PK4



PIONEERS SINCE KINDERGARTEN



Valedictorian  
**Ron Varghese**



Salutatorian  
**Darryl Scheer**

# Alumni & A

## Marleen Guerrero Colligate High Jumper LSA — Class of 2016



**Q** How did you incorporate your faith into your college experience and into your life now?  
**A** When I first got to campus as a freshman, I joined FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) and that helped me so much grow in my faith and remain in my faith. Every year, there is an FCA camp where athletes from all over Texas go and just worship and be in God's presence while relating it to sports. It is always the best time and so humbling because it makes you realize that none of this would be possible without God. In sports specifically, God gave us athletes such an incredible talent so that when we go out and perform, all the glory should go to Him. When I'm in practice and it's getting tough and I'm just so tired, something that helps me push through is remembering that my sweat is an offering, and my soreness is a sacrifice. He gave everything for us so why wouldn't we give some back to Him. Since COVID happened, I don't go to in person church anymore, but I watch sermons once a week on YouTube and that really helps me keep my focus and reminds me who I'm doing everything for.

**Q** What are your future plans?  
**A** Right now, I am finishing out my extra year of eligibility and if I happen to do crazy well, I might consider continuing high jump after college. If that does not happen, after this school year I will find a job. My dream job would be an event planner/communications director of a sports team (collegiate or professional). I look forward to beginning my next journey!

**Q** What are your favorite memories from LSA?  
**A** That's tough because I was at LSA from kindergarten until I graduated so it was kind of like a second home to me. My favorite memories are probably just being in class with my best friends and joking around during free periods or in between classes. I also loved my time doing sports at LSA and having gamedays.

**Q** Why did you choose the University of Texas, and how did LSA prepare you for UT?  
**A** I chose the University of Texas because when I went on my official visit, I just absolutely fell in love with the campus, the team, its academic programs and most importantly, I felt at home. LSA helped prepare me by having a good curriculum along with helping me time manage between sports and school. Most importantly, I learned that if you have any sort of questions, ask them and that goes for both school and sports.

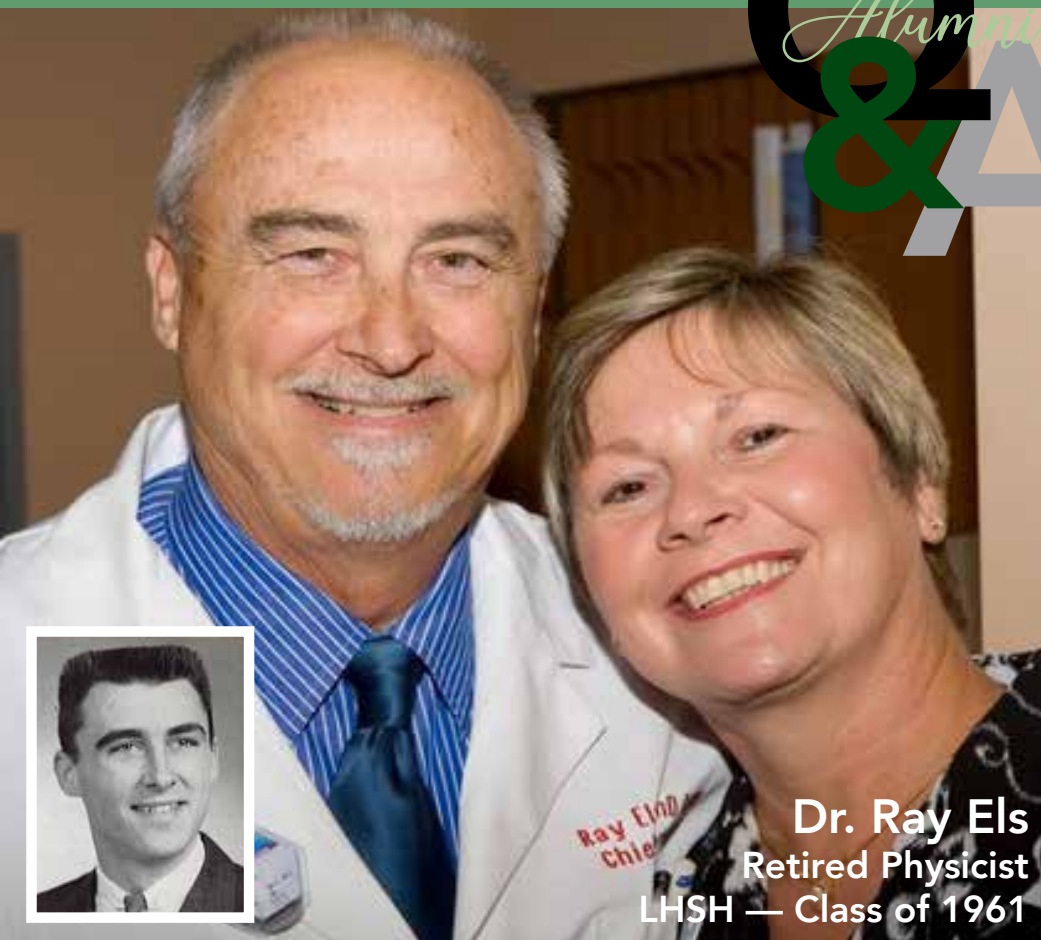
**Q** What did you major in at UT? What do you think about college after your four+ years of experience?  
**A** I majored in corporate communications with a minor in business and I am currently doing a fifth year to finish out my track and field eligibility. I love my time at UT, and I know that it will be some of the best years of my life and that is something I cherish. Being able to be a student athlete at one of the best schools is something that not everyone gets to do and for that I am so blessed and grateful.

**Q** Did anyone at LSA have a substantial impact on your college path?  
**A** From all the classes we take, it definitely helped me narrow down what I wanted to major in, but I wouldn't say that there was one specific person. Since I was there from age 4 to 18, everyone there helped shape and make me the person I am proud to be.

**Q** What does a college athlete's life look like?  
**A** It's definitely very busy but I personally enjoy that. A typical day for me would be weights at 8:30AM, class after that until around 12 or 1, quick lunch, outside practice at 2:30 or 3 until around 4 or 5, do some recovery, dinner after that, and then finally go home and do homework. It's a full day but it is cool to see how all the hours you put in and hard work pay off. There is almost nothing better than seeing your strength increase or your technique improve.

**Q** What accomplishments are you most proud of from your time at UT?  
**A** The accomplishment that I am most proud of is breaking my personal record and jumping a new one of 5' 10.5" (1.79m). The excitement that rushed over me after that bar was crazy, and it is what makes me want to push myself even harder.





**Dr. Ray Els**  
Retired Physicist  
LHSH — Class of 1961

**Q** Did any specific teachers at LHA motivate your career path or leave a lasting memory for you?

**A** It was too long ago to actually remember the names of specific teachers, but I do remember Coach Gilmore from all those years of playing football and running track.

**Q** Why did you choose your career path in Physics?

**A** It chose me. I started at Baylor intending to transfer to Texas Tech to study engineering. I did transfer to Tech but found out I could get a master's degree in physics for the same time as a bachelor's degree in engineering. I completed my PhD requirements by taking the written exam and oral exam to be certified as a Radiological Physicist by the American Board of Radiology, a medical board.

**Q** How did you start your career?

**A** I went into the US Public Health Service to avoid the draft for Vietnam. I planned to move to Australia then and was offered a position at the Cancer Institute of Victoria with the

understanding that, upon completion of a residence program, I would take a position in the cancer center in Launceston, Tasmania.

**Q** What are some career highlights you would like to share with us?

**A** I formed a physics, dosimetry, and accelerator service group while in Atlanta. At the time it was one of the largest such groups in the US.

**Q** How did your faith play a role in your life during your career and now?

**A** I came to realize that science and faith were linked, not in opposition. For example, many particles exhibit three characteristics. They are particles, they are energy packets, and they are e-m waves depending on their interactions with their environs. As Christians, we believe in the Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Same thing.

**Q** What are some words of wisdom you would like to share with our current Pioneers?

**A** God will guide you through life, all you have to do is just listen to Him.



**Ryan Dundee**  
Manager of Major League  
Video for LA Angels  
LSA — Class of 2012



**Q** Tell us a little bit about your LSA experience.

**A** I moved to LSA when I was in 8th grade. I really enjoyed the smaller class sizes and the great teachers that I was blessed to have. I played baseball and basketball and made friends that I consider my best friends to this day.

**Q** What are your favorite memories from LSA?

**A** Playing a baseball game at Minute Maid Park my senior year was something I will never forget. Also, going to sophomore retreat with my classmates, hanging out with my friends at football games, and Spirit Week each year.

**Q** Why did you choose to attend Texas A & M and how did LSA prepare you for your college career?

**A** I toured Texas A&M my senior year at LSA and loved the atmosphere and the campus. I took dual credit courses at LSA which I felt really prepared me for what a college class would be like and gave me a head start going into my freshman year of college.

**Q** What did you major in while attending Texas A&M and why did you choose that direction?

**A** I majored in Economics with a minor in Sports Management. I completed an Economics course my freshman year at A&M that ended up being my favorite class I ever took and decided to declare Economics as my major. I loved how it was a major that has such a wide variety of classes that all relate to the real world. I always knew I wanted to work in the sports field and felt like the analytical and quantitative skills I learned as an Econ major would prepare me for a job in professional sports someday.

**Q** Did anyone at LSA have a substantial impact on your college/career path?

**A** My first year at LSA was not the easiest and Mr. Brumm deserves a ton of credit for making me feel comfortable as the new kid in school. I may not have stayed at LSA if not for him. Also, my coaches: Coach Schneider, Coach Psencik, and Coach Riveness all had a huge impact on me becoming the person I am today. They taught me much more than just how to play on the court and on the field but the importance

of hard work that I have taken with me throughout my career.

**Q** What is your career and how did you get started?

**A** I am the Manager of Major League Video with the Los Angeles Angels. After graduating college, I applied for any job I could find in professional baseball until I was fortunate enough to receive an Internship offer with the New York Yankees. I spent a year in Trenton, New Jersey, working with their AA team. After that season, I worked with the Astros for 2 years in the Minor Leagues before starting with the Angels in 2019.

**Q** What are some career highlights or career accomplishments you are proud of that you would like to share with us?

**A** Being a part of the Astros organization in 2017 when we won the World Series and being able to hold the World Series trophy was a dream come true. This year, I was promoted to a Major League team with the Angels. As a kid growing up, I wanted to play professional baseball so being up here working with some of the best players in the world is something I am very

proud of. Lastly, having the opportunity to travel with a Major League team and visit places like Yankee Stadium, Fenway Park, and even back home to Minute Maid Park has been the most fun part of my career to this point.

**Q** How did/does your faith play a role in your life during college and your current career?

**A** Throughout my college and professional career, I have done my best to leave everything up to God's will for me. I have been unbelievably blessed to be in the position I am, and I know none of this would be possible without all of the people that God has put in my life to help me get here. Working in baseball, you often have day games on Sundays that make it very tough to attend church. The nice part about being here with the Angels is we have a pastor come to the dugout every Sunday that speaks to the players and staff before the games, and we never forget to give thanks and remember how truly blessed we are to do what we do.

**Q** Do you have any words of wisdom for our current Pioneers?

**A** Find something you are passionate about and do your best to outwork everyone to reach your goals. When you get an opportunity, do everything you can to prepare yourself so that you do not miss it. Lastly, be kind to everyone you meet. You never know when a connection you make with someone, no matter how small, may have a huge impact on your career down the line.



# LSA Excels in *Rodeo Art*



*and Beyond*

Lutheran South Academy offers an art program unlike any other. Every level of Art and Ceramics is taught by artists who are professionals in their field. These instructors each own their own businesses outside of LSA, display their work publicly, or have work mass distributed in stores nationally and internationally. This experience allows our art teachers to provide LSA students with the best instruction possible as far as techniques AND real-world

application. It is our goal to give students not only techniques to create, but also the techniques to use their artwork and to share it with the community.

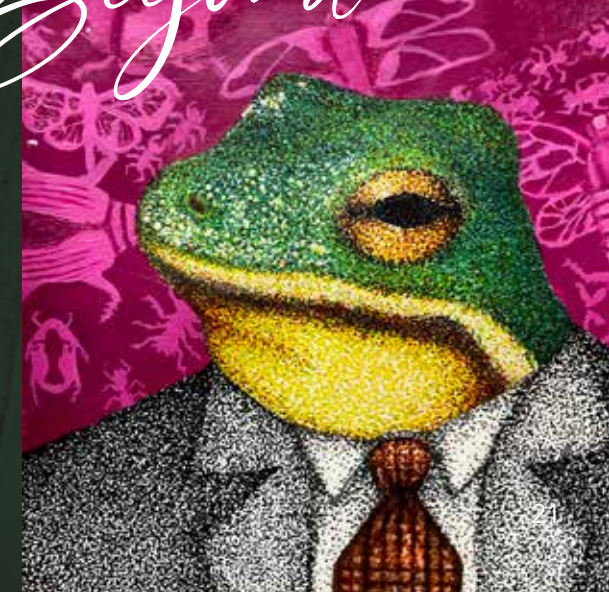
Lutheran South Academy's art program is proud to have students routinely excel in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Competition. For the past 3 years we have had 2 or more students move on to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. This is a huge honor for any private educational



institution. In addition, LSA is proud to partner with Butler Longhorn Museum to display the students' rodeo themed artwork. This has allowed our students and their families to see their work displayed in a professional, museum setting. Our exhibition was then featured in the COAST Monthly magazine in 2019 along with pictures of our students and their work. This event generated such a positive response and has proven inspirational to our artists.

Art students at LSA are also encouraged to participate in community outreach. Each year, there are several class periods dedicated to making hand-made holiday cards which are then distributed to senior citizens in assisted living communities.

We strive for excellence in every aspect of our art program! Be on the lookout for displays of our students' work throughout the year as they continue to develop their artistic skills and techniques.



# 5th State Championship for LSA Band

The high school band won their 5th TAPPS state championship in the Spring 2021. To earn this title, they competed in four different competitions throughout the school year: Field band competition (October), drumline competition (October), solo and ensemble competition (March) and full concert band competition (April). The band students showed a passionate commitment to teamwork and a deep understanding of music performance as they crossed each milestone throughout the year. In addition to preparing for TAPPS competition, the band also performed at home football games, online Christmas concert, live solo recital, and live Spring concert.



## Choir Brings Joy to a COVID World

The Lutheran South Academy Concert Choir had a tremendous year of growth and learning over the last year. Despite dealing with hybrid learning, a virtual Christmas Concert, and singing in masks, the Concert Choir experienced success in a variety of areas. For the first time since 2016, LSA was a participant in the TAPPS Vocal Music Championships, which were held virtually. The choir participated in both the Solo/Small

Ensemble and Large Ensemble Contests, earning Division 1 ratings in enough categories to place 3rd overall in 5A for Vocal Music. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work, hours of group/individual rehearsal, and dedication put forth by the LSA students. While contest success created a lot of excitement, nothing was more satisfying than finally having the opportunity to perform for

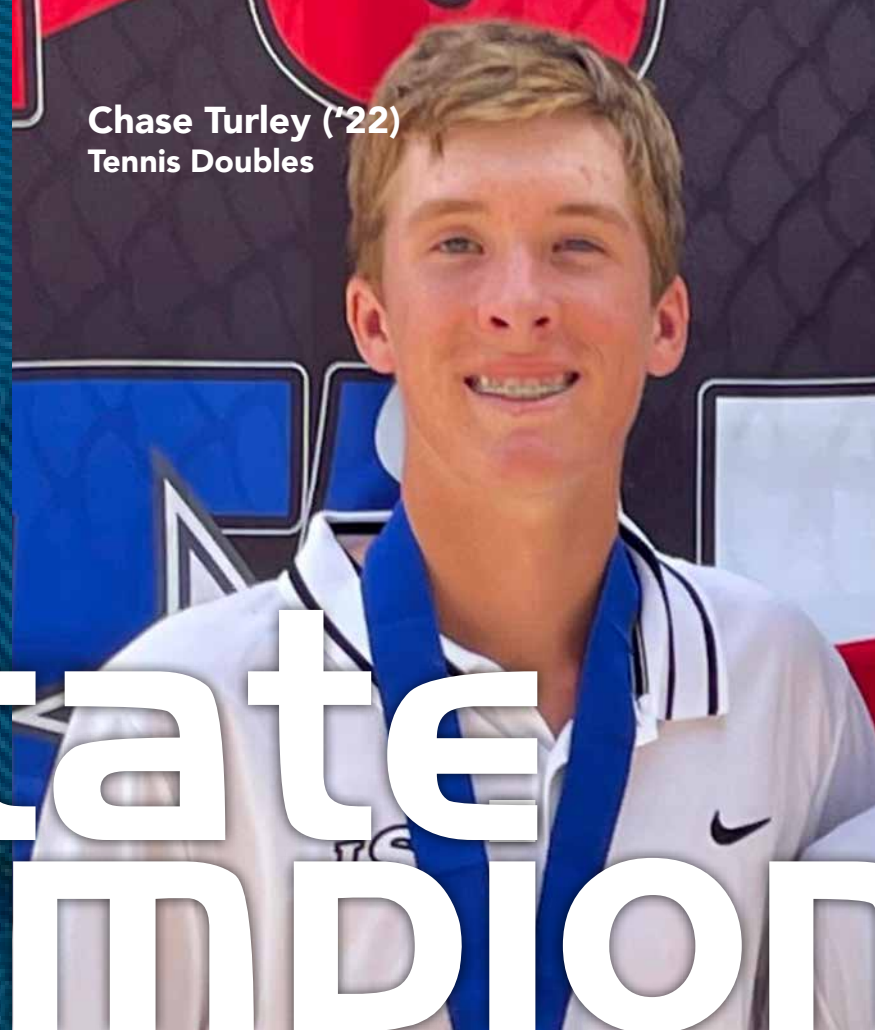
an audience for the first time since Christmas of 2019. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church graciously allowed the Middle School and High School choirs the chance to share the music they worked on for a live audience, making for a special night of wonderful music. Mr. Jenkins is extremely proud of the growth and direction of this wonderful program and can't wait to see how it continues to bless the LSA community for years to come.



Lutheran South Academy hosted the Gala-thon of Giving on April 17, 2021. This virtual 1-hour event featured live raffle pulls, guest speakers, and student feature videos. Another great feature of the night was the Gratitude Calling Center where every donor to the event received a personal phone call from one of our Class of 2021 callers who thanked them for their support of the event and of LSA. The event was a huge success raising nearly \$200,000 for the Pioneers.



Chase Turley ('22)  
Tennis Doubles



David Hensley ('22)  
500 free



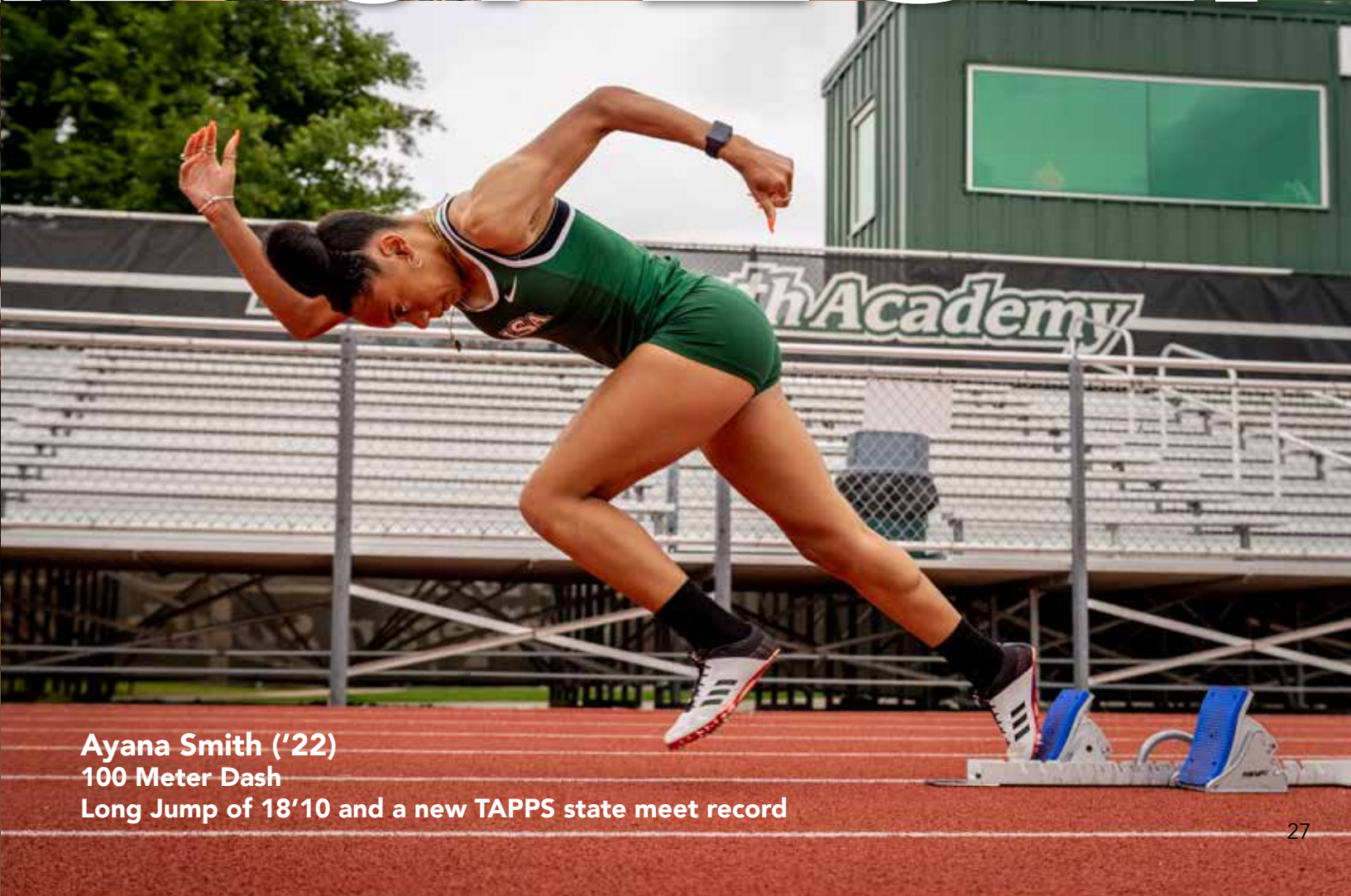
"LSA athletics was special to me because it felt like family. I know that my coaches care about me as a person just as much as they care for me as a player."

Luke Harrison ('21)

# State Champions of 2021



Tiger Cheung ('21)  
Tennis Doubles



Ayana Smith ('22)  
100 Meter Dash  
Long Jump of 18'10 and a new TAPPS state meet record



# A Banner Year

## Team Sports Earned Top Honors

## LSA Mens Soccer—Adding to Their Legacy

The class of 2021 has helped establish LSA soccer as one of the best programs in the state. During the last four years the Pioneers have accumulated an overall record of 88-32-9 averaging over 20 wins each season. Those results have led to 3 district titles, 3 regional titles, 3 state final four appearances, 1 state championship, and 2 VYPE private

school team of the year awards. The results have come from all the hard work and dedication the players put in each and every day at practice. Only seven years ago the soccer program had just one varsity team. Presently the program averages 40 players that come out allowing the program to fill a full roster for a varsity and JV team. During that same time Lutheran South

players have named to the TAPPS all-state team over 20 times. It has become the new standard coming into the program that every year the team will compete for championships at the district and state levels. The bar has been set high and our players know what is needed to achieve success. They are looking forward to have another great year for Pioneer Soccer.



## LSA Baseball: Champions for Life

When Aaron Schneider took over the baseball program at Lutheran South Academy in 2013, he knew one thing: his Pioneers were capable of big things. His expectations and lofty goals seemed excessive given the Pioneers were 10 years absent from the playoffs and had only one previous Final Four appearance in its baseball record books. Fast-forward to 2021 and the Pioneers have four state championships (2015, 2018, 2019, & 2021), are the current defending state champions, have produced 32 college baseball players, and a 2015 MLB draft pick in Paul Salazar. So, what's the secret to success for Pioneer baseball? Ask Coach Schneider, and he will tell you that it's great people. "Our success as a baseball program is built around working with great people. It starts with great kids that are willing to work hard, that buy in to our vision and understand that we truly want them to be successful. These types of kids come from great families that support our coaching staff, help to provide us with the tools that we need to accomplish

our goals, and put their faith and trust in us to simply do our jobs." The Pioneers have built a winning tradition around program values that they call their three "C's": Character, Competition, & Consistency. They believe that maintaining focus on these three areas produces champions not just on the field, but in life. As a program, the Pioneers focus on being champions in three specific areas of player's lives: on the field, in the classroom, and out in the community. Over the past decade, baseball players have put these values into action through their Christmas service project appropriately dubbed "Champions Caring for the Community". Through the project, players donate various amounts of their own money and have that amount matched by family and friends. Typically, in a given year, the Pioneers raise between \$3,000-\$4,000 dollars. Players then take this money and go shopping for local families in need. After purchasing gifts, players, with the help of a wonderful group of mothers, wrap the presents before

delivering them, as a team, to the families in need just before the Christmas vacation. In the classroom, the Pioneer baseball team currently boasts a 4.36 cumulative GPA. Through it all, the Pioneers strive for humility and to glorify God through everything they do. In the words of senior Garrett Coiner, "As baseball players, we want to leave a positive legacy at Lutheran South and in the community, a legacy that honors God. We want people to be able to look at our program and understand that in order to accomplish high levels of success, it takes commitment and hard work. That it takes unity and us being a family." Perhaps it is that last part that encapsulates Pioneer baseball: being a family. In the words of Coach Schneider, if we love our players, commit to working hard, and try to always do things the right way, the winning will take care of itself". So far, the recipe seems to be working.







# LSA ATHLETIC AWARDS

## TEAM SPORTS

### ALL-DISTRICT

#### FIRST TEAM

LUKE HARRISON - FOOTBALL, BASEBALL  
 JOEL HUTCHINS - FOOTBALL  
 MICHAEL PURDOM - FOOTBALL  
 CADE GOLDSTRAW - FOOTBALL  
 ALEXA FERNANDEZ - VOLLEYBALL  
 LILY PSENCIK - VOLLEYBALL, SOFTBALL  
 LAUREN SCHELLSTED - VOLLEYBALL  
 ELI GARRABRANT - SOCCER  
 JACE WINDOM - SOCCER  
 DARRYL SCHEER - SOCCER  
 BRADEN LEIMKUEHLER - SOCCER  
 EVANY GONZALEZ - SOFTBALL  
 KRISTA VAN AKEN - SOFTBALL  
 DEUNDRE JONES - BASEBALL  
 CHRISTIAN MELILLO - BASEBALL  
 EASTON BRENNER - BASEBALL  
 WYATT MAHER - BASKETBALL  
 PAUL LINDBERG - BASKETBALL  
 GAYLE HENDERSON - BASKETBALL  
 MAKYNNA ROBBINS - BASKETBALL

#### SECOND TEAM

CONNOR HANSON - FOOTBALL  
 NICK HATCH - FOOTBALL, SOCCER  
 JOSH GOMEZ - FOOTBALL  
 TYLER EHLINGER - FOOTBALL  
 ALAINA PINK - VOLLEYBALL  
 KIERSTEN LIN - VOLLEYBALL  
 JUSTIN ROGERS - BASKETBALL  
 BRAEDEN COLLINS - BASKETBALL  
 KAM BYRD - BASKETBALL  
 CAYDEN KOSTER - BASKETBALL  
 NOAH MERRILL - SOCCER  
 MATTHEW GIUGLIANO - SOCCER  
 RACHEL BELL - SOCCER  
 MALORIE MCGEE - SOCCER  
 NELSON KLEIN - BASEBALL  
 PERRY BROWN - BASEBALL  
 COLT POWLEDGE - BASEBALL  
 ASHLEY FORET - SOFTBALL  
 MACKENZIE CLARK - SOFTBALL

#### HONORABLE MENTION

CADE GOLDSTRAW - FOOTBALL  
 MATHIS JEAN - FOOTBALL  
 TYLER HELPENSTIL - FOOTBALL  
 HUNTER TEICHMAN - FOOTBALL  
 TORI BURKETT - VOLLEYBALL  
 TAYLOR CRAIN - VOLLEYBALL  
 ALEX MELILLO - BASKETBALL  
 GALEN WATERS - BASKETBALL  
 LANE WHITNEY - BASKETBALL  
 LILY PSENCIK - BASKETBALL  
 SILAS GARRABRANT - SOCCER  
 NOAH ROBERTS - SOCCER  
 MAX MCGEE - SOCCER  
 CLARE VARANAUSKI - SOCCER  
 AXEL JESUS - BASEBALL  
 TYLER EHLINGER - BASEBALL  
 CAYDEN KOSTER - SOFTBALL  
 MADISON LEHMAN - SOFTBALL

### ALL-STATE

#### FIRST TEAM

JOEL HUTCHINS - FOOTBALL  
 LUKE HARRISON - BASEBALL  
 EVANY GONZALEZ - SOFTBALL  
 ELI GARRABRANT - SOCCER  
 JACE WINDOM - SOCCER  
 DARRYL SCHEER - SOCCER  
 BRADEN LEIMKUEHLER - SOCCER

#### SECOND TEAM

WYATT MAHER - BASKETBALL  
 DEUNDRE JONES - BASEBALL

#### HONORABLE MENTION

CADE GOLDSTRAW - FOOTBALL  
 LUKE HARRISON - FOOTBALL  
 PAUL LINDBERG - BASKETBALL  
 GAYLE HENDERSON - BASKETBALL

## INDIVIDUAL TEAM SPORTS

### ALL-DISTRICT

MATTHEW GAITAN - CROSS-COUNTRY, TRACK  
 MARCUS GAITAN - CROSS-COUNTRY, TRACK  
 LYDIA WARD - CROSS-COUNTRY  
 KENYAN BERNARD - TRACK  
 EASTON BRENNER - TRACK  
 PERRY BROWN - TRACK  
 WILSON KLEIN - TRACK  
 BRADEN LEIMKUEHLER - TRACK  
 WYATT MAHER - TRACK  
 AJ OKWONNA - TRACK  
 JUSTIN ROGERS - TRACK  
 ALEC SALERNO - TRACK  
 MATTHEW SAVALA - TRACK  
 LANE WHITNEY - TRACK  
 EMILY ADAMS - TRACK  
 RACHEL BELL - TRACK  
 TORI BURKETT - TRACK  
 ISLA CAUDILL - TRACK  
 MALORIE MCGEE - TRACK  
 AUDREY PFEIFFER - TRACK  
 ALAINA PINK - TRACK  
 EMMA QUINTON - TRACK  
 MAKYNNA ROBBINS - TRACK  
 AYANA SMITH - TRACK  
 LINDSEY WITSON - TRACK

### ALL-STATE

DAVID HENSLEY - SWIM  
 CHARLES MARICLE - SWIM  
 HUNTER NOLEN - SWIM  
 ELLIOT MILES - SWIM  
 LUKE LEBLANC - SWIM  
 EMILY ADAMS - TRACK  
 ISLA CAUDILL - TRACK  
 LINDSEY WITSON - TRACK  
 AYANA SMITH - TRACK  
 AUDREY PFEIFFER - TRACK  
 BRADEN LEIMKUEHLER - TRACK  
 PERRY BROWN - TRACK  
 LANE WHITNEY - TRACK

## ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

LUKE HARRISON - FOOTBALL, BASEBALL  
 NICK HATCH - FOOTBALL, SOCCER  
 LILY PSENCIK - VOLLEYBALL, SOFTBALL  
 KIERSTEN LIN - VOLLEYBALL  
 LAUREN SCHELLSTED - VOLLEYBALL  
 AUDREY PFEIFFER - SWIM, TRACK  
 JACE WINDOM - SOCCER  
 DARRYL SCHEER - SOCCER  
 NOAH MERRILL - SOCCER  
 MATTHEW GIUGLIANO - SOCCER  
 BRADEN LEIMKUEHLER - SOCCER, TRACK  
 NELSON KLEIN - BASEBALL  
 CHRISTIAN MELILLO - BASEBALL  
 EASTON BRENNER - BASEBALL, TRACK  
 MACKENZIE CLARK - SOFTBALL  
 ASHLEY FORET - SOFTBALL  
 EVANY GONZALEZ - SOFTBALL  
 TORI BURKETT - TRACK  
 EMILY ADAMS - TRACK  
 LINDSEY WITSON - TRACK  
 LANE WHITNEY - TRACK  
 ERINN DONNELLY - SWIM  
 CHARLES MARICLE - SWIM  
 HUNTER NOLEN - SWIM  
 DAVID HENSLEY - SWIM

# Signed

 Athletes Playing at the Next Level

#SOUTHPRIDE



## Bleacher Update

Another phase of the stadium project has reached completion. Over the summer 150 new stadium seats were added to the home side bleachers. The existing bleachers were dismantled to make room for the stadium seats to be placed in the middle in front of the press box. Two new entrances into the bleachers were added on the sides of the press box allowing 4 points to enter the stands. Once the new stadium seats were assembled in the middle, the original bleachers were built back on both sides increasing the overall capacity for our fans to watch. The stadium seats bring in a new excitement and overall aesthetics of the stadium. The stadium seats have been reserved by numerous booster club members and funds raised from those seat reservations will help to pay the costs of the additional phase of stadium completion; the video scoreboard. LSA is under contract with ACE Sports as they are building our scoreboard that will be installed.

# Athletic Expansion Projects

*Video Scoreboard Coming Soon*



Winter 2021 saw the advent of Esports at Lutheran South Academy. Chris Williams ('22) joined the team and found great pleasure in discovering a way to become part of the fabric of the extra-curricular community at LSA. Interim Head of School and High School Principal, Steve Garrabrant, interviewed Chris about his experience with Esports.



**MR. GARRABRANT:** Why did you join the Esports team?

**CHRIS:** I joined the Esports team so I could be included in a school organization. Before Esports LSA primarily offered only physical activities, and I personally cannot do physical activities. Esports opened the door for me to compete in a non-physical extra-curricular sport.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** What do you enjoy most about Esports?

**CHRIS:** Esports is relatively easy. I can do it here or at home. It fits well in my schedule so life is not too hectic throughout the year.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** A lot of people may not understand what Esports is. Is it just simply gaming or is there more to it?

**CHRIS:** So, Esports is mostly gaming, but players also collaborate as a team. If you already have a team online, you can bring that team in so everyone can be part of the esports program.

Esports competes in competitions against other schools. Colleges are now offering esports which opens doors for people like me.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** Sweet! So, you have a team. It is not just individual but a team setting. Tell me a little bit more about that.

**CHRIS:** In the team setting, we play a game, called Overwatch, which takes six people on each side. Your objective is to capture a point and get the most points at the end of the game. The points are scored by round, so if you win round 1 you go to round 2. If you win round 2 you win the game. If you lost round 2, you proceed to round 3. Whoever wins round 3 wins the game.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** As a coach, it is always important to practice and develop a strategy. We consider our opponent for our next competition and plan accordingly. Do you do that

in Esports or do players just show up? How does that go?

**CHRIS:** Strategy is very, very important in the gaming world. Quite frankly, you are probably competing against a team on the other side of the United States who you have never met in real life. Esports requires a lot of strategy. The maps in the game are different for each place you go. The team needs to know about the different secrets and hiding places to be proficient at the game being played. These are things we work on in practice.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** On your team, do you have different teammates with different skills? How does a team work together as it games?

**CHRIS:** As far as that goes, you have different people that name certain characters. Once a character is named that player typically competes with that character. Depending on that character's abilities, different jobs are assigned within the game.

For example, if you were to play a "junk rat," those characters sabotage people. The "junk rats" would be placed in the main mix so the action continues as the team attempts to mess up other characters from the opposing team.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** Cool! If someone were to ask you whether they should join Esports, what would be the reason for them to join Esports at LSA?

**CHRIS:** I would say you should join the Esports team at LSA because it is a welcoming feeling, and the room is open for after school almost every day. We practice, have fun, and take things we already know to build up each time we walk into the room for gaming.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** I noticed that you have green lights in the gaming room. Does that really make a difference?

**CHRIS:** Well, it does make a difference. The lights help make you feel like you are there inside the game with all the action. It helps you feel immersed within the virtual world.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** I think some of our teachers are jealous of the chairs that you get to use. (Chuckles)

**CHRIS:** I am even jealous that we only get to use those chairs in the gaming room and not every day for school.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** What is your greatest joy being on the Esports team at LSA?

**CHRIS:** The greatest joy for me was seeing our team poster hung on the wall in B Building with all the other sports teams. I did not think I would ever see myself on that wall unless I played, football, baseball, soccer, or another physical sport. But ... it happened, and I am pretty happy about that!

**MR. GARRABRANT:** Awesome! Is there anything else that you want our LSA family to know about Esports?

**CHRIS:** Esports at LSA provides opportunities that were previously offered here. For people who are more introverted or have a physical challenge Esports is the perfect opportunity to be active in the school community, have fun, talk to people, and make new friends.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** Do you think you will do anything with Esports beyond high school?

**CHRIS:** I want to, but it depends on how much time I have.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** What are your plans after high school?

**CHRIS:** After high school, I want to become a bioengineer. To achieve that goal, I will need to focus on either mechanical engineering or chemical engineering for my bachelors and then get my masters in bioengineering.

**MR. GARRABRANT:** Chris, I want to thank you for your time today. It is a joy to have you in school. You always bring a smile to my face because you are always smiling and having fun. So, thank you for being you! I appreciate you!

**CHRIS:** Thank you for being our Principal and thank you for the opportunity to speak about the Esports team.

# Giving Back with Flavor

Viraj Bhalla ('23) has been a student at Lutheran South Academy since the 5th grade. Upon graduation, Viraj aspires to study aerospace engineering, but in the meantime, he spends his free time giving back to the community and helping those in need. In 2020, Viraj watched the news as the COVID pandemic spread across the world and countless people in need of food. As foodbank lines grew, Viraj took a call to action. Wanting to do something with food, Viraj Bhalla decided to create a cookbook. The genesis of Viraj's love of food began early in his childhood when he would help his grandparents, who live in India, cook traditional Indian recipes in the kitchen. One of the reasons cooking became a passion for Viraj was seeing how much joy could come from creating food from scratch and seeing the happiness that it brings to people. Thus, the idea for a cookbook was born. Viraj decided that he would take all of the recipes of his family members and compile them into a book on Shutterfly. At first, he began selling the cookbook to his friends and family to earn money to give

back to the community. It wasn't until a family friend in the marketing industry suggested taking the cookbook to Amazon, that he began to see tremendous success. With each cookbook that was sold, Viraj decided to donate the profits to an



organization called Feeding America. He chose this particular organization because the program offered 10 meals per every \$1.00 donated and he believed that this would make the biggest impact on his attempt

to shorten the foodbanks lines he had seen on the news in months past. To date, Viraj has donated over \$3,600.00 to Feeding America, which equates to roughly 36,000 meals for those in need. This winter, Viraj plans on traveling to India where he will also share donations to the organization, Feeding India, which helps feed the local Indian population. He currently has \$1,400.00 raised for Feeding India and looks to give more as his cookbook sales continue to be a success. When asked what ignited his desire to serve the community in this way he commented, "Ever since I was young, my parents said giving back to those in need shows who you really are and that you have a good heart." He believes his parents and his time here at LSA, which continues to instill Christian values of service, have motivated him to find ways to help give back.

Viraj would like everyone to know that you don't have to do something as big as creating a cookbook to give back, you can donate in small amounts or in time to give back to the community. Everything helps.

# Kindergarten Signing Day



This past spring, some of our youngest Pioneers had the opportunity to celebrate their transition to kindergarten at LSA's first annual Kindergarten Signing Day. Mrs. Bahr and Mrs. Akkerman were on hand to welcome the students to kindergarten. Pep the Pioneer even made a surprise visit! LSA was excited to celebrate with these students and their families as we focus on Securing Their Future and spreading the love of Jesus!



# A Refreshed Lesson from COVID-19

A few years ago, when my daughter was six, she innocently asked, "What's the meaning of life?" Unprepared for a bedtime question of such magnitude, I told her we would talk about it in the morning. Not wanting to miss this teachable moment I spent much of the evening searching for an appropriate response, and finally arrived at a simple truth: I didn't know the meaning of life. But I was able to come up with an answer that, over breakfast the next morning, satisfied her question, which later I found out was prompted by a cartoon one-liner of no consequence. I told her I was still working on the meaning of life, but that I did know one of the secrets in life: pay attention. My daughter reassured me she always pays attention. She enumerated all the things she paid attention to, counting one on each finger: her teacher, her parents, being careful when pouring a glass of milk, etc. I agreed with her list but told her there were many more things yet to be counted. I told her to pay attention to her friends, her family, her faith. Pay attention to nature, your neighbors, your health. Pay attention to those in the world that need your attention and ask for it; pay attention to those that need your attention and don't ask. Pay attention to your feelings, your self-worth, the value of a

smile. And finally, pay attention to what your heart tells you because that is one of the surest ways to pay attention to God. I offer this story because these last two years have been hard. Loved ones have been lost; masks and hand-sanitizer have dominated daily routines; separation from family and friends has left holes in our hearts. My family suffered the loss of my mother, and my fire department family suffered the loss of 4 brother firefighters. Everyone struggled with how to honor and celebrate the life of their beloved. People wanted to come together to mourn, pray, and heal but many were unable. It felt horrible. We chose to honor mom by planting a tree in a local park. The firefighters were buried with honors but with less in attendance than pre-pandemic services. Neither of these memorials felt like enough. When the COVID-19 pandemic began to close the doors to businesses and schools and separate us from the people we care about, my family struggled to make sense of it all. How would we function in a society that felt so foreign? It took some time, but we finally arrived back at the simple lesson we discovered together. This was an opportunity to pay attention. It was a chance to experience some of the small things we missed prior to our social pace being slowed to a crawl. It offered new prospects and adventures that our previous path through life may have missed. We spent more time outdoors, we read more, we played more, we listened more. We found a better balance between work and family. We found new ways to enjoy things we had taken for granted. My hope is that our family can continue to apply the pay attention philosophy every day. Our story during COVID, like most of our community, has been an emotional

marathon of highs and lows. We have tried to stay engaged with the positive moments & memories and learn from the negative. One of the ways we have kept focused on the uplifting side of things is by acknowledging the efforts of the people around us. We have seen so many acts of kindness and love all with the intent to keep each other safe and healthy. I would like to a moment to share some special notes of gratitude. We are grateful to the faculty and staff of Lutheran South and the Lutheran Education Association of Houston for their dedication to creating and maintaining a safe, healthy, and encouraging environment for our family. We know there were immense hurdles navigated to give our children opportunities to continue to learn, play, and fellowship. The amount of work that went into offering in-person and online instruction was monumental. Planning, replanning, and adapting school day routine to allow for social distancing in the classroom, safe student movement through the halls, and facility disinfection took resolve and exemplifies the love LSA has for our children. We are also thankful to the LSA families that gave us strength and encouragement long before viruses and vaccines were the topic of most conversations; and we hope to continue to build those relationships into posterity. Lastly, thank you all our friends and family that have paid attention to us over that last two years. We look forward to returning the favor. *"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."* - 1 Timothy 4:16



LEROY LUCIO      JERRY PACHECO      TOMMY SEARCY      TANNER REED

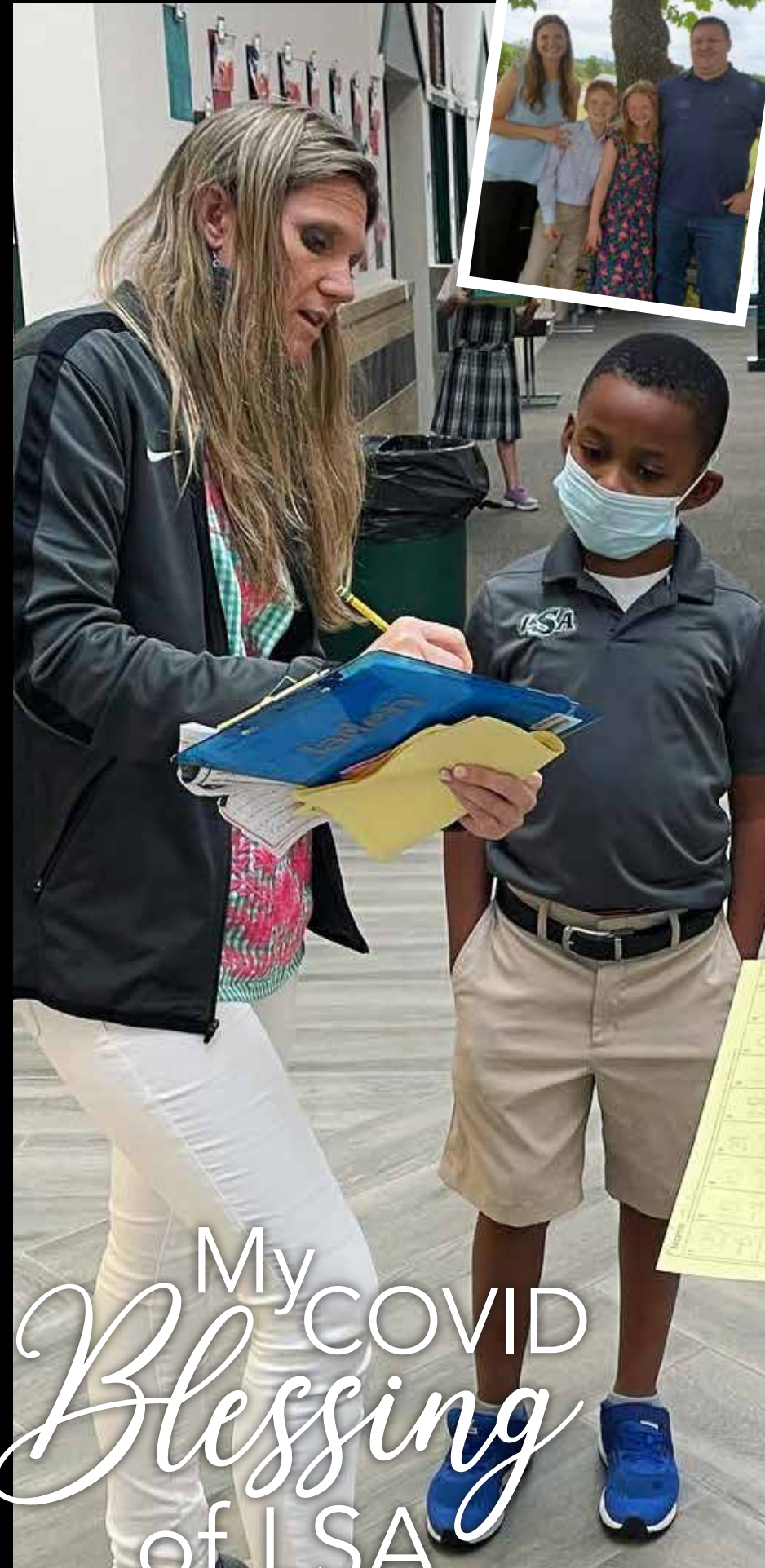
# COVID Blessings

Towards the end of my junior year of high school, the whole world shut down due to COVID. Everyone was unsure what was going to happen or if we were even going back to school. I was so scared that I wouldn't be able to go to school in person for my senior year which is supposed to be the best year of high school. A month before my senior year started, I lost my dad. I didn't know how the year of 2020 could get any worse. I made it my goal for my senior year to not take anything for granted and to have fun despite there being COVID and grieving my dad. My senior year was not what *High School Musical* made it seem like it would be. Having to wear masks, social distance, having limited capacity, have virtual chapel, not getting to have a homecoming dance, and not being able to have pep rallies really made the school year feel incomplete. But because we had to do all those things, we were able to still go to school in person, have sporting events, have homecoming week, have senior nights, finally getting to have a prom and at the end of it all, we got to have a graduation. I was so grateful to be able to have those things even with COVID still around. Some schools couldn't have anything at all, so it was really a blessing that we were able to. The one thing that made my senior year was having all school chapel at the end of the year. That was the best day of the school year because the whole school was finally together after being separated. Even though my senior year was hard at times, it was a year that I will never forget.

by Kendal Girouard, Class of 2021



My COVID Blessing of LSA



My name is Jenny Blackley and I am one of the 2nd grade teachers at LSA. I consider myself "new" as this is only my second year, but at the same time I feel as though I have been here for years. The school, families, and staff make you feel right at home and have an incredible way of lifting spirits, especially in times of crisis.

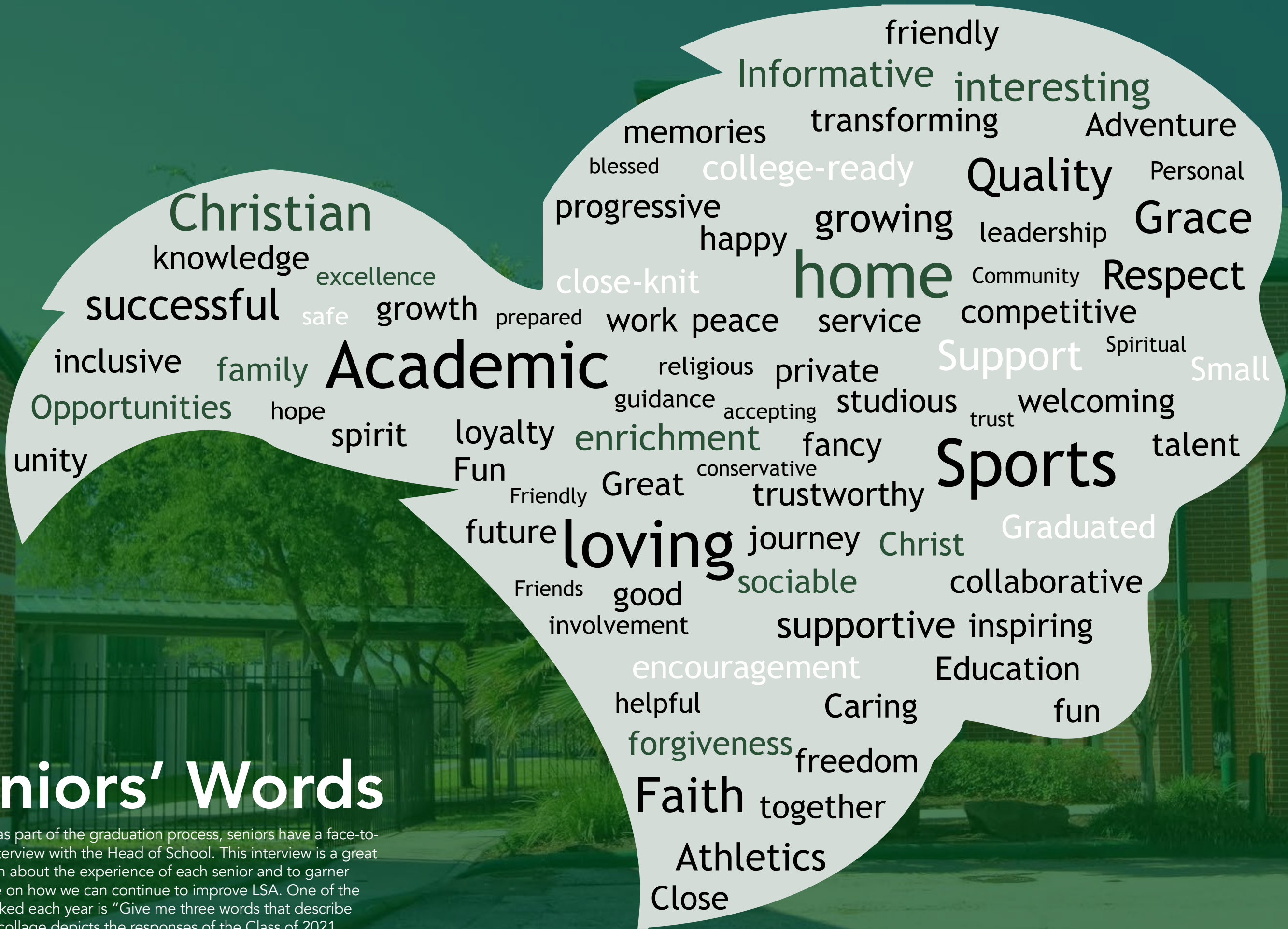
I wanted to share a personal experience regarding COVID and how it has actually been an amazing blessing for myself and family. For years I have felt that God was calling me back into His ministry of teaching and I knew I was meant to be at LSA. However, I was struggling with God's timing and when He was ready for me to return to work in a Christian environment. Right after COVID hit, we moved, and I began reaching out to churches and schools in the area. Little did I know that God's plan was already at work and I would receive a call from LSA Admin that due to social distancing and the school's COVID plan, they would be opening a second 2nd grade classroom and needed a teacher. My calling happened in the midst of so much pain and grief. God was ready to use me when so many people were struggling with fear and doubts. My family has been so blessed with amazing teachers and friends who love Jesus and share His love with others. I get to see and hear of God working through students and families as they share memories of things, they would not have been able to do had they not stayed home. I am also constantly reminded that GOD IS IN CONTROL. We are all going to be faced with trials and tests (family and friends with COVID, shutdowns, opinions,...) but God commands us to trust in Him. We will always be faced with struggles but our reactions are what helps us to persevere and get through those challenges. God wants us to respond with No Fear (2 Timothy 1:7) and trust in His Word as He leads us through these difficult times (Psalm 143:8).

I rejoice in what God has provided me with during these past 18 months. I have made new friends, found comfort in His Word, have seen my children smile more than ever at school, and learned to slow down and enjoy God's creation. While we have all had different experiences with COVID, may we also be reminded that our God is an awesome God and wants to take all of our pain and grief so that we may live a life of peace in Him.

Thank you so much for your support of LSA so that, not only my kids, but all of our students may continue to grow in their faith and walk with Jesus.

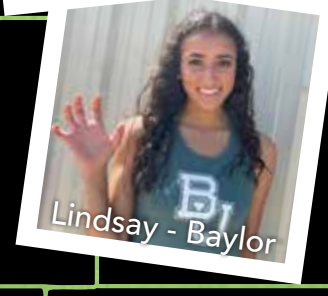
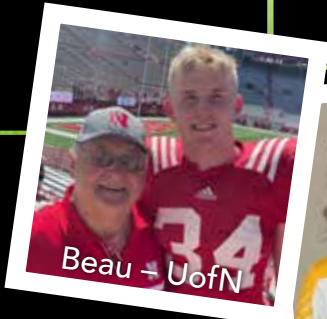
# Seniors' Words

Each May, as part of the graduation process, seniors have a face-to-face exit interview with the Head of School. This interview is a great way to learn about the experience of each senior and to garner their advice on how we can continue to improve LSA. One of the requests asked each year is "Give me three words that describe LSA." This collage depicts the responses of the Class of 2021.



# Pioneers at College

LSA graduates attend colleges and universities all over the USA. With them, they take the Christian values and the Word of God that they have been taught at Lutheran South Academy. Look at the diagram to see where the Pioneers from the past 4 years are currently shining the light of Jesus!



Jesus shares the Great Commission with his disciples. He says, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." — Matthew 29:19-20

- Abilene Christian University
- Alvin Community College
- Arizona State University
- Aurora University
- Austin College
- Baylor University
- Benedictine College
- Canisius College
- Carleton College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Concordia University Ann Arbor
- Concordia University Chicago
- Concordia University Nebraska
- Concordia University Texas
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- East Texas Baptist University
- Fordham University
- Full Sail University
- Furman University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gordan University
- George Washington University
- Gordon College
- Grand Canyon University
- Hardin-Simmons University

- Hawaii Pacific University
- Hendrix College
- Hiram College
- Houston Baptist University
- Houston Community College
- Howard Payne University
- Howard University
- Indiana University of Bloomington
- Iowa State University
- John Brown University
- Kansas Christian College
- Lafayette College
- Lamar University
- Louisiana State University
- Loyola University New Orleans
- Manhattanville College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State University

- Midland University
- Mississippi State University
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- Multnomah University
- Muskingum University
- Northeastern Oklahoma State University
- Northeastern University
- Oklahoma State University

- Oral Roberts University
- Panola College
- Prairie View A&M University
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- Ringling College of Art & Design
- Rutgers University
- St. Edward's University
- Sam Houston State University
- Schreiner University
- Seton Hall University
- San Jacinto College
- Southern Methodist University
- Southern Nazarene University
- Southwestern University

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- St. Mary's University
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- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M University
- Texas A&M, Corpus Christi
- Texas A&M, Galveston
- Texas Christian University
- Texas State University

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- The University of Texas, Dallas
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- University of Notre Dame

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- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Utah State University
- Villanova University
- Western Texas College
- Washington State University





# THE DONOR DIFFERENCE

*There are many ways to support LSA!*

## 3 Easy Ways to Donate to the LSA ANNUAL FUND

Mail your gift in the enclosed donation envelope.

Visit [www.lutheransouth.org](http://www.lutheransouth.org), click on Giving tab, click on Annual Fund, then click on the "Give Now" icon.

Scan this QR code with your phone.



## LSA'S ANNUAL FUND *Every Donation Counts!*

Many people often wonder how they can directly help the needs of our current generation of Lutheran South Pioneers. The answer is simple...contribute to the Lutheran South Academy Annual Fund!

The Annual Fund is a key source of support that impacts virtually every program and student on the LSA campus. Last year, with generous help from alumni, current families, faculty, and friends of LSA, the Annual Fund raised over \$147,000! While many private schools and local organizations spend time hosting bake sales and selling cookie dough, candy, and other trinkets, LSA has one ongoing event that helps to keep our families from having to endure another excruciating "ask" of their friends and relatives.

The longevity of our ministry platform has always been dependent upon like-minded families who are seeking the best educational experience for their children while cultivating a student's relationship with Christ.



In 1949, the original Lutheran High School opened in Houston with 50 students and a tuition cost of \$100 per year. Originally, the school was designed to serve Lutheran students from all across Houston. Today, we serve children and families across a spectrum of beliefs, ethnicities, and socio-economic levels who come to our schools across the Houston region for a variety of reasons. Our graduates attend colleges and universities across the United States and are adding value to their communities as Christian leaders. Through outstanding academic programs, in an environment of Christian love and care, the lives of young people are being transformed for service in His kingdom.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the LSA Annual Fund. All gifts to the LSA Annual Fund will be used to support students on the Lutheran South Academy campus. Your yearly generosity helps to ensure that our students are afforded the opportunities to pursue excellence each and every day. Thank you for your partnership and support of Lutheran South Academy and our students through the LSA Annual Fund.



# MORE WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## LEAVING A LEGACY SUPPORT THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

Planning your future? How do you want to leave your legacy? Please consider including LEAH Schools in your estate and financial plans. As the cost of providing a quality education continues to rise, the need for funds derived from planned giving becomes more important. Your commitment to LSA during your lifetime will enable us to plan now for future needs, while ensuring excellent education for generations to come. Like other financial decisions, a planned gift must be chosen and shaped with care. Individual circumstances vary, and different gifts may prove more advantageous to you.

Gifts can be structured in a variety of ways: a bequest, direct beneficiary designation, gift annuity, IRA charitable rollover gift, or charitable remainder trust. The most common type of planned gift is a bequest in your will or trust. We accept many types of planned gifts and assets including cash, securities, direct beneficiary designation, gift annuity, IRA charitable rollover gift, charitable remainder trust, real estate, retirement plans, life insurance policies, and others. For more information please contact Randy Einem, Executive Director ([randy.einem@leahschools.org](mailto:randy.einem@leahschools.org)) or Jane Brown, Chief Financial Officer ([jane.brown@leahschools.org](mailto:jane.brown@leahschools.org)) or call the LEAH Office at 281-617-5189.

## HELPING OTHERS ATTEND LSA

### SUPPORT THE LUTHERAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF HOUSTON (LEAH) TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

Support the Lutheran Education Association of Houston (LEAH) Tuition Assistance Fund. The "LEAH Tuition Assistance Fund" was recently established to help families who truly want the blessings of Christian education for their children but are not able to fully fund it at this time. They are in need of assistance for their child's tuition. Please help our students through your donation. You may designate your gift specifically to LSA or to LEAH. Go to [LEAHschools.org](http://LEAHschools.org). You will be able to give a one-time or recurring gift. For assistance or more information please contact Randy Einem, Executive Director ([randy.einem@leahschools.org](mailto:randy.einem@leahschools.org)) or Jane Brown, Chief Financial Officer ([jane.brown@leahschools.org](mailto:jane.brown@leahschools.org)) or call the LEAH Office at 281-617-5189.

## LEAH ENDOWMENT FUND

The mission of the Lutheran Education Association of Houston (LEAH) is "To operate and champion exemplary Lutheran schools in the Houston area to expand Christ's Kingdom." The LEAH Endowment Fund provides donors the opportunity to empower and support our schools toward fulfilling this mission. Donors are able to contribute gifts in perpetuity to this fund, knowing their gift will expand Christ's kingdom for countless generations to come. For more information please contact Randy Einem, Executive Director ([randy.einem@leahschools.org](mailto:randy.einem@leahschools.org)) or Jane Brown, Chief Financial Officer ([jane.brown@leahschools.org](mailto:jane.brown@leahschools.org)) or call the LEAH Office at 281-617-5189.

## SHOPPING DONATION PROGRAMS



With the holidays just around the corner, be sure that all of your Amazon purchases benefit the students at LSA! The **AmazonSmile Foundation** will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases back to the Lutheran Education Association of Houston (LSA's non-profit entity). Create a new account, or use your existing Amazon account by visiting [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).



When you register your **Kroger** card, LSA receives money back every month based on your grocery purchases! Simply go to <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> and register your Kroger card or re-enroll for the current school year. The Lutheran South Academy NPO number is 83623. Please note, if you were registered last year, you will need to renew LSA as your philanthropic organization of choice. Simply sign in and click the "re-enroll" button!



If **Randalls** happens to be your grocery store of choice, be sure that your Randalls Rewards Card is registered and select **LSA** as your choice non-profit school. Once you have designated LSA as your preferred non-profit, a check for 1% of your grocery total will be sent directly to LSA each quarter. Unfortunately, Randalls does not have an electronic enrollment process, but you can print the application by visiting <https://www.randalls.com/yourstore/good-neighbor.html> and drop it off at your local Randalls grocer. Lutheran South Academy's "Good Neighbor" number is **1537**.

## THRIVENT



With **Thrivent Choice®**, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Members become eligible for Thrivent Choice based on insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent volunteer leadership. Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars that they can direct to enrolled charities. You can direct your Choice Dollars to as many participating organizations as you'd like, but you may not direct less than five Choice Dollars to an organization. We hope you will consider Lutheran South Academy as one of the beneficiaries of your generous philanthropy!

## MATCHING PROGRAMS



Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions or volunteer hours made by their employees. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. Lutheran South will do the rest! The impact of your gift to Lutheran South Academy may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please visit <https://www2.matchinggifts.com/search/rit> and enter your employer's name to search the database.



# Thank You

leg-a-cy [leg-uh-see] a gift of property, especially personal property, as money, by will; a bequest

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Albertsons Safeway  
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B. M. Woltman Foundation  
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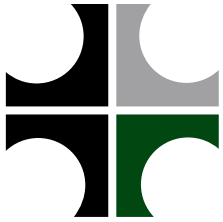
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leg·a·cy [leg-uh-see] a student at a school that was attended by his or her relative

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