



# The FALCON

ARBORBROOK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Fall 2023 | November 1, 2023



Students Matthew and Kelsey West at the original Arborbrook Christian Academy sign on the very first day of school in 2005

## A Look Back and a Look Ahead

Almost twenty years ago, a group of families took a risk and sent their children to a new start-up school in Union County named Arborbrook Christian Academy. Many of those parents were filling out applications for admission even before the school founders had finalized the location for the school! It was an uncertain, exciting time; it was an adventure. The vision of the kind of education Arborbrook would strive to provide was enough for those pioneer families to make a commitment and enroll.

Arborbrook opened its doors on our current campus with forty students in grades K-7.

We are in awe as we reflect on God's faithfulness over the years to grow, nurture and mature our school. We have grown significantly in size with 268 students enrolled in 2023. Our scope has expanded; we are now a K-12 school and even offer college courses through our dual enrollment program. Time has tested and seasoned our educational philosophy and the distinctives envisioned by our founders – the Gayles, Grems,

*continued on p.2*

Scan this QR code to learn more



**ROOTS**

*established in love, creating  
space for students to thrive*

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# Featured Articles

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Heidorns and Osteens – and we have graduated 140 students. Arborbrook has earned a reputation as a school with a deeply rooted Christian community and an engaging educational approach that truly instills a love of learning. We have a long history of fulfilling our mission – thanks be to God!



A scrapbook entry featuring Arborbrook's first class of students.

We are now looking to construct a new building to allow for further growth and the continuation of this mission into future decades. For the first time in the history of our school, we launched a capital campaign in 2022. Year two of this campaign starts now, and we have \$3 million dollars to raise! It is an exciting time; it is an adventure. We know God was faithful in 2005, and we can trust He will be faithful now.

Today, we are at another pivotal time in the history of Arborbrook Christian Academy. We are asking our current families – parents, students, grandparents – as well as faculty and staff to recognize the unique and historic opportunity we have before us. This is an exciting time for our community to make the commitment to allow us to open new doors on this campus. We will look back and remember that it happened during these years, with these families, and future families will be grateful – thanks be to God!

*Feature Article written by Jeri Zangmeister, Director of Development*

## NC Expands Opportunity Scholarship Next School Year

More families will qualify for publicly funded private school vouchers under an expansion of the state's Opportunity Scholarship program for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Opportunity Scholarship program currently serves mostly low-income families and some middle-income families, providing applicants with a voucher to help pay for private school tuition for their children. The expansion will make families of all incomes eligible for the voucher. This legislation will be a game changer for NC families seeking private education for their children.

Look for more information about this program soon. Arborbrook will equip current families with information needed to apply for these funds. Applications begin in February 2024.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 9-11

Fall Production (Grades 2-8)

### November 16

School Spelling Bee (Grades 4-8)

### November 27-30

Food Drive

### December 15-January 1

Christmas Break



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# Student Life

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## High School Students Chosen as Class Representatives on Homecoming Court

Congratulations to the High School students who were chosen to represent their classes on the 2023-2024 Homecoming Court. Freshman Court: Lydia Myers and Andrew McPhaul, Sophomore Court: Simone Quaranta and Will Alderman, Junior Court: Gabi Hart and Dominic Andrade, and HOMECOMING SENIOR KING and QUEEN: Charlotte Depp and Trevor Hinson



Pictured Left to right: Gabi Hart, Dominic Andrade, Charlotte Depp, Trevor Hinson, Simone Quaranta, Will Alderman, Lydia Myers, Andrew McPhaul

## Glow in the Dark Homecoming: A Night to Remember

The "Glow in the Dark" Homecoming on October 14th was an unforgettable night, masterminded by the student council and assisted by dedicated parent volunteers. It left Arborbrook's seniors describing it as their best homecoming ever, thanks to the captivating decor and the theme-inspired culinary delights. DJ "Padre," a former Arborbrook parent, kept the dance floor alive, with even crutch-bound students joining in. Dance circles and a lively atmosphere continued throughout, and Arborbrook extends heartfelt thanks to all who made this special evening possible for our high school students.



Students and chaperones conquer a hike to the Camp Harrison Overlook

## High Schoolers Worship and Learn Together at Annual Retreat

In September, High School students took a retreat to Camp Harrison for three days of worship, learning, and community building. Students participated in a mini-Olympics where their teams competed in a variety of events like a photo scavenger hunt and late-night Hide-and-Go-Seek type games in the dark across the whole campus.



Sophomore and Senior girls spend time fellowshiping at retreat

In the evenings they were led in worship by our high school student worship teams. Bible Teacher Mr. Reinken preached through chapters 2-3 of Revelation revealing things that Jesus said to seven churches in the first century in order to better understand who He is calling His church to be in 2023.

The retreat wrapped up with the traditional "Shout-Out Campfire" where students had freedom to share short speeches of gratitude and encouragement about their fellow students. The positivity and encouragement this brings out is so inspiring and is always one of the students' favorite parts of the entire school year.

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# Athletics

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## Tennis Player Named Conference Champion

Congratulations to 7th grader Ella Preston who earned the title of Conference Tournament Singles Champion!



Champion Ella Preston poses with tournament bracket

## Fans Pack the Falcon Nest for Pep Rally and Homecoming Game

Homecoming 2023 kicked off with an exhilarating Pep Rally, uniting students from grades 3 to 12 in a surge of school spirit. Fall Sports Teams and Athletes were recognized, and the highly anticipated Homecoming Court was formally introduced. Fun, inter-grade games added a touch of festive competition before concluding with an invitation to the evening's Volleyball Homecoming Game.



Lower School Students celebrate Homecoming at Pep Rally

The Homecoming Volleyball Game drew a jubilant crowd, making it an unforgettable event for all in attendance. The enthusiasm in the air was palpable as students, alumni, and the community came together to support the home team. The evening was filled with cheers, school pride, and unbridled excitement. The packed attendance was a true testament to the unity of the Arborbrook Christian Academy community.

## Senior Athletes Receive Special Recognition

Arborbrook's recent Senior Night was a heartfelt celebration, spotlighting two outstanding student-athletes: soccer player Weston McIntosh and volleyball player Natalie Kiel. Their dedication and skills have been an inspiration. As they embark on their next chapters, Weston and Natalie are applauded for their remarkable achievements, embodying the spirit of Arborbrook's athletic excellence.



Pictured Left to Right: Weston McIntosh and Natalie Kiel posing with family members and commemorative jerseys

## Golf Tournament Success

The 2023 Golf Tournament was a resounding success, doubling the number of participating teams compared to the previous year. A total of forty-eight golfers enjoyed a morning of camaraderie and on-the-course challenges at Monroe Country Club. The day's festivities came to a close with a delicious lunch provided by Bisonte Pizza, and participants had the chance to win fantastic raffle prizes. Even more impressively, the event managed to raise over \$5,000 in support of the Athletics Department.

Arborbrook would like to thank the following event sponsors:

- Carolina Dock Equipment
- Hissho Sushi
- Viking Mergers & Acquisitions
- Charlotte Residential Group
- Cooper Building Group



High School Students volunteer at 2023 Golf Tournament



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# Campus News

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## Arborbrook Welcomes New Student Support Specialist



Pictured: Mrs. Danielle McGauley, Student Support Specialist

Arborbrook welcomes Danielle McGauley, student support specialist, as a valuable addition to our faculty, who comes with a wealth of experience and a passion for nurturing young minds. As part of Arborbrook's unwavering commitment to providing exceptional education, Mrs. McGauley holds a multifaceted role designed to support and enhance our students' academic journey.

In her role, Mrs. McGauley works with small groups and provides one-on-one instruction to students who need extra support. Proficient in Orton-Gillingham specialized instruction, she monitors progress and assists our School Psychologist in educational evaluations, teacher consultations, student observations, and administrative tasks. Additionally, Mrs. McGauley supports our teachers in phonics and math instruction.

Arborbrook is excited about the invaluable contributions Mrs. McGauley is making in this new role.

## Knowing God

The theme for this school year is Knowing God. The theme verse comes from Hosea 6:3 (ESV),

“LET US KNOW; LET US PRESS ON TO  
KNOW THE LORD; HIS GOING OUT IS  
SURE AS THE DAWN; HE WILL  
COME TO US AS THE SHOWERS, AS  
THE SPRING RAINS THAT WATER  
THE EARTH.”

There is no greater mission for Arborbrook Christian Academy than that students know God. Each lesson, assembly, and Scripture memory verse seeks to help our students attain this goal this year.



Second graders in Mrs. Mann's class present at Assembly on the Sovereignty of God



High School Students enjoy social time at Coffee House after All School Assembly



## Arborbrook Students to Star in *Cool Suit* Production

*Cool Suit* by Lauren Mayer, is a musical retelling of the classic folktale, *The Emperor's New Clothes*. This entertaining show, with its mix of theatrical pop and humor, caters to both kids and adults, combining silliness and entertainment with meaningful messages about sticking to one's convictions, pursuing challenging goals, and resisting peer pressure. From a Biblical perspective, it draws parallels between the selfish emperor and wicked kings in the Bible,

highlighting the consequences of pride.

The emperor in the story is taught a valuable lesson when the people appeal to his pride and plot against him. Cast members have learned to apply the principle found in 1 Timothy 4:12. **No matter how young you are, do not be afraid to use your voice and stand for Truth!** In the story, the adult characters went along with a lie because they were afraid, but a child led the way! A child was the only one who was brave enough to stand against all of the peer pressure and tell the truth. Ultimately, as the finale song states, we need to, "Think for ourselves," and be true to the image God has created us to be. Join us for this fantastic production!



## *Cool Suit* Show Times

**Thursday, November 9 at 7 PM**

**Friday, November 10 at 7 PM**

**Saturday, November 11 at 2 PM**

Tickets on sale at  
**[arborbrook.org/cool-suit](http://arborbrook.org/cool-suit)**



## Arborbrook Christian Academy

4823 Waxhaw-Indian Trail Road

Matthews, North Carolina 28104

704-821-9952 | [arborbrook.org](http://arborbrook.org)