

FALL/WINTER 2023-24

KEYNOTER



THE MAGAZINE OF DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Fall/Winter 2023-24

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The Delaware County Christian School (DC) Keynoter is published bi-annually to communicate our school vision and news to alumni, friends, family, and prayer partners of the school. DC was established in 1950. The school serves students in grades PK2–12 on campuses in Newtown Square and Devon, PA. DC is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and by the Association of Christian Schools International. DC admits students of any race, color, and national/ethnic origin to all of the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national/ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs. In addition, DC is authorized under federal law to enroll nonimmigrant students.



OUR MISSION IS TO EDUCATE STUDENTS WHO WILL SERVE GOD &





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ADVANCEMENT REPORT

2022-23

Dear DC Friends and Families,

Our school theme verse for 2023-24 is Isaiah 40:31:

"But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

This verse calls our community to deep hope as the people of God's story.

In fact, Isaiah's name means "Yahweh is salvation"—summing up the message of the prophet. Isaiah challenges the people of Judah in his time, circa 725 BC—and all of us today—to accept their role in God's story that is headed to a glorious future. The clarion call of Isaiah 40:31 is that God's people stand fast, no matter what we face in the present or in times to come. God consoles His discouraged people: "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" (40:5). We are to savor the promise of God by faith until the time of fulfillment. In Christ we find endless supplies of fresh strength. Our hope, trust, and strength is in the Lord, who is the great I Am and who reigns over all things—this is His story.

This theme aligns with our strategic initiative of Teaching for Transformation: we are the people of God's story engaged in real work that forms self and shapes the world. At DC, we prepare students for a life of impact through an innovative and exemplary education rooted in Christ. Students prepared for a life of impact means giving our kids a greater sense of who they are, of their true purpose, of how the world is broken and will be made whole, and of their role in God's great redemption story.

The stories and photos in this issue of the Keynoter offer exciting examples of how DC students, faculty and staff, and parents are living into their place in God's story. All of these snapshots of life at DC point to God's gracious and merciful leading of His ministry of Christian education at Delaware County Christian School. May the content on these pages inspire us to continue our support of the mission of DC—to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

Soli Deo Gloria,



Dan Steinfeld, Head of School





UC
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
*Preparing Students
for a Life
of Impact*



“O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation,
your power to all those to come.”
Psalm 31:17-19

David is in trouble and he makes this appeal to God: “Do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.” David knows God cares about the next generation so he pleads, “Help me through this so I can tell them about you.” This is also why we invest in the mission of DC, whether as board members, parents, or educators: so the next generation will know the power of God. The impact of these investments has been reverberating across generations for nearly 75 years.

The sign beside the front door of the Upper Campus Mansion reads, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7). DC exists to impart not just knowledge, but a fear of the Lord that defines the character and worldview of the next generation. With this understanding, we joyfully support DC’s mission “to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.” We are grateful for the years of God’s profound faithfulness to DC. As the Board of Trustees, our hope is that DC continues to equip the next generation to flourish and be fruitful in the grace of God for years to come.

David is a prototype of the benefits of learning eternal truths at a young age. He recounts his experience, declaring, “from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” This is a blueprint for DC as students are transformed by an innovative and exemplary education, rooted in Christ, leading to lives of impact. May the wondrous deeds of the Lord resound for generations to come.

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New FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Get to know a little bit more about our teachers! Several new faculty members share about their time so far during the 2023-24 school year, what brought them to DC, and their hope for their students.



JENNIFER (JOHNSON) BRIGGS '05

Kindergarten

FAVORITE CLASS AS A STUDENT:

English at DC with Mrs. McLaughlin. She taught us how to add layers to our writing, always comparing it to baklava—then brought some in for us to try!

FOLLOWING GOD'S PATH:

I am grateful for all I experienced as a DC student. I made lasting connections and memorable experiences. I felt prepared spiritually and academically when I graduated. Shortly after I began my first year teaching, I realized the significance of all students seeing themselves reflected in a role of influence. Representation fosters a sense of belonging and inclusivity. After experiencing the roles of student and parent, I am now blessed with the opportunity to serve as faculty and be a part of this representation for future generations.

HOPE FOR STUDENTS:

My deep hope is that my students would feel joy in exactly who God created them to be!



JOSHUA CIBIK

9th Grade World History

FAVORITE CLASS AS A STUDENT:

My favorite class was with Mr. Zawack, my high school history teacher, who inspired me to become a history teacher. I stay connected with him even today.

HOPE FOR STUDENTS:

When it comes down to it, my students will most likely forget many of the things they learned in my class after they have me. While my goal is to teach my students history, I ultimately hope for my students to know that I am there for them not only as a teacher but as a mentor and someone who eagerly wants to support them in any way I can. A student will remember 30 years down the road how you made them feel, not what happened at a certain point in history.

KATY ENGELMAN

PK4

VERSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

Psalm 19:14 - "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

FAVORITE CLASS AS A STUDENT:

I absolutely loved math (and still do)!

FAVORITE THING ABOUT DC:

I love being able to pray with my students. Each day we come together for Closing Circle, and the children have the opportunity to share what is on their hearts. It is so beautiful to watch the children remember things their friends have shared and ask specifically to pray for those things.





DANA ROBINSON

2nd Grade

FAVORITE CLASS AS A STUDENT:

Math! My favorite class to teach would be reading, though. I like it because of all of the discoveries during reading.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT DC:

I would say the community support. The staff is so supportive and willing to help. Also, the parent support; even at back to school night when they prayed for me! That was definitely a nice surprise, so I appreciated that. In our training meetings, there were so many alumni who have come back to work here, which speaks to that DC community.

HOPE FOR STUDENTS:

My deep hope is that my students would discover God's gifts and share His gifts. I hope they realize how much Jesus loves them, that He's faithful to them, and He is with them always.

REBECCA LEWIS

3rd Grade

VERSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

1 John 4:19: "We love because He first loved us."

FAVORITE THING ABOUT DC

I love students' enthusiasm for learning and their thoughtfulness towards each other. Third graders bring with them a lot of natural curiosity and creative energy, and my class certainly has a lot of both! I have been impressed by my students' desire to care for and encourage one another in a godly way.

BEST PART OF THE CLASSES YOU TEACH

I enjoy the challenge of engaging students across all the different subjects. I like making math fun and teaching English in a way that helps students express themselves meaningfully. I love using our beautiful campus as an outdoor classroom to give my students an opportunity to engage all their senses in learning. Teaching is never boring because each student has their own unique response to the material.



MARIAH GIBSON

PK4

VERSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

Psalm 13:5-6: "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for He has been good to me."

FOLLOWING GOD'S PATH:

I believe the path God has for my life has been unexpected, but looking back I can see just how God set it up for me to be exactly where I am right now. Life took detours along the way and I started to lose hope that I would end up in a teaching position where I felt truly content God placed me there. At DC, I feel I am exactly where God has called me to be, but I can also see that all of the detours have prepared me for this.

HOPE FOR STUDENTS

I hope my students feel loved, heard, and cared for each day. I want them to know who God created them to be and strive to grow in Christ each day. I hope they learn to love their friends and find excitement for learning.



A LIFE *of* IMPACT

ANNA RITCHIE '22



A thunderstorm roars across the savanna. Wildlife creeps around you, and venomous snakes slither under your feet. When you leave your tent to visit the nearest grocery store, you prepare yourself for a two hour journey. It may not sound like the life of a typical college student, but it's the daily routine of DC alumna Anna Ritchie '22.

Anna joined the DC community in 2017 as an eighth grader. "I came to the Lord right around the same time I came to DC," she shares. Though Anna's transition from public school wasn't always easy, she is thankful for the hospitality shown by her classmates and teachers.

"I struggled and thought I wouldn't fit in. However, my friends were quick to bring me up to speed and make sure I always had someone to sit with at lunch." At the same time, Anna felt supported by her teachers as she wrestled with her newfound faith. She recalls, "I asked Mr. [Rob] Atkins difficult questions in Bible class and would play devil's advocate!" Some of her other favorite DC memories include AP Chemistry with Mr. Stephen Pulliam, AP Spanish class and lunches in Ms. Meggan Arnold's room, and athletics all four years of high school. Not only did Anna play soccer, basketball, and softball, but she also led as Athletic Prefect her senior year.

Like many high school students, Anna firmly believed the next step after graduation would be attending college. "I was going to James Madison University, but I heard this whispering: 'There's something more, there's something different, something else.'" In the midst of planning for life after DC, her family faced another trial: Anna's mother was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. "It was something that started to crack the foundation of my plans. Time is so short, [so I thought] maybe I'm not ready for college," Anna reflects. Thankfully, her mother is currently in remission and God wove His perfect plan for Anna by calling her on a unique mission: the World Race.



The mission of the World Race Gap Year is to “awaken the church to radically follow Jesus and advance His Kingdom.” Applicants ages 17-20 reside in various countries in order to support communities in need and share the gospel. Over the course of nine months, Anna served in Guatemala, Romania, and Eswatini (Swaziland) in South Africa. Each country provided a different ministry to work alongside, such as children’s ministry, refugee relief efforts, or medical care. While in Guatemala, Anna’s Spanish studies at DC were put to the test: “Since no one else on my team knew Spanish, I was made the official translator!” Thanks to all those lunches spent in Ms. Arnold’s room, where students are required to speak Spanish only, Anna had opportunities to practice the language for a greater purpose. She recounts, “There were times when we were serving or conducting a house visit and I prayed, ‘Lord please give me the words to say.’ There were many instances of God speaking through me because I spoke the language better than I ever had before!”

As she became immersed in the mission field, Anna began to question the story God was writing for her life. “I had deferred college for a year, but a couple weeks into the World Race I just had this feeling from the Lord that I wouldn’t go to college next year. I realized I wasn’t going to go the traditional route.” What happened next could only be His direct answer to Anna’s prayer.

Anna’s team arrived in the small country of Eswatini (“Swazi”) in South Africa in March 2023, where their

mission was to partner with a medical clinic which provided healthcare by helicopter and Land Rover to villages that were hard to reach. On her first day, Anna met the married couple who ran the clinic. She marveled when the man mentioned he was from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, and his wife, Megan, attended DC from 9th-11th grade. This meeting was no coincidence for Anna, but the answer from God she was looking for. Prior to the World Race, she had considered pursuing nursing as a career while completing internship hours at a hospital. Upon meeting this couple, she saw firsthand how someone could impact God’s Kingdom with a nursing degree. “Alongside physical healing, they were providing spiritual healing, and the Lord could use that. That was my sign that this is what God wanted for my future.”

Since returning from the World Race, Anna has continued to lead a life of impact in her local church, and currently works as an instructional aide on DC’s Lower Campus. She hopes to one day return to the medical missions field. Wherever the Lord moves Anna next, her desire is that those she meets will “know the greatness of God” and trust that He “knows their needs and provides [daily bread] for them.”

By Grace Newman '16, Advancement Assistant



ALUMNI

We want to hear your stories!
Email us at alumni@dccs.org

THE SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE *of* DISCIPLESHIP



Introduced into the DC community during the 2021-22 school year, discipleship groups are a Christ-centered space of learning and growing among fellow students and faculty. With updated block scheduling, and the addition of a fifty-minute lunch period, increased time for student engagement and activity became available. As a result, these groups were designed to intentionally create opportunities for students to draw nearer to God. These meetings, which occur on a weekly or biweekly basis, provide a place for DC students to discuss struggles in their lives and pray for one another.

Led by both faculty and local pastors, discipleship groups are a place for students to form closer relationships and learn ways to strengthen their faith in the Lord. Groups choose a book or topic to discuss throughout the year. Despite these groups being optional, many different students have joined and continue to meet throughout the year.

This fall, I became a part of a discipleship group led by Mrs. Shellie Marshall, Dean of Students, and Mrs. Molly D'Antonio, Upper School English Teacher. Our group focuses on "creating space in our lives for our relationship with Jesus." I felt called to this group specifically because of this topic of study. Over the past few meetings, I've been able to discuss my faith freely, and work with my group on finding ways to overcome obstacles, such as how to slow down in the busy world we live in today. Even though our group only meets for fifty minutes at a time, the impact has changed the way I view my life and pointed me towards a larger purpose: being intentional with my faith to draw closer to God. While it's still an area I continue to need growth in, this goal has driven me to plan out times for prayer and devotion each day. There are countless things in my life, whether past or present, that I need to give to God. Establishing these routines has already helped my relationship with the Lord and my peers as I continue to grow.



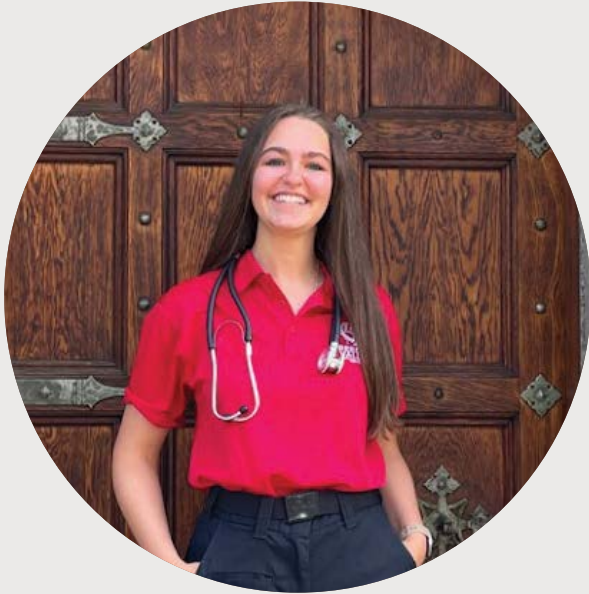
Discipleship groups have been a force of positive change, opening up more opportunities for dedicated time throughout our days to focus on God, to talk about Him, and to invite Him into every aspect of our lives. This increase in spiritual fervency is not only a result of these meetings, but one of worship nights and the retreats as well. DC hosted a worship night on campus in early November, which brought many students together to praise and worship God. Not only did this impact the student body, but it brought in others from the community. In addition to leading a discipleship group, Leo Parris, a pastor from Covenant Fellowship Church in Glen Mills, led our time during this evening. His dedication to the DC students in leading both worship and a group throughout the year is just one example of how impactful those in our broader community have been on the spiritual growth at school.

As I prepare to graduate from DC in the spring and move on to the next chapter in my life, I feel prepared both academically and spiritually, knowing I can depend on God to guide me through the various challenges ahead.

BY AUDREY MCKEANNEY '24
Communications and Development
Prefect



A FIRM FOUNDATION:



RELYING ON GOD'S LIFE-GIVING HOPE

BY TRINITY HOBAUGH '24

This summer I embarked on the journey of becoming both a state and nationally certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). I was encouraged by multiple mentors and friends to work towards EMT certification as a step in pursuing a medical career. Through the internship opportunity of SAIL, DC's Schools for Applied and Innovative Learning program, I was able to observe on an ambulance for the past two years during SAIL weeks. Many of the EMS crews I worked with were very encouraging in my certification process and gave great wisdom and insight into the field as well as other medical career options.

The certification course was demanding—a mix of standard book learning and working ambulance shifts. I participated in a nine-week accelerated EMT course, much faster and more intensive than other courses which can range anywhere from three to twelve months.

While the workload was challenging, it also grew my faith. Going to DC, I am usually surrounded by those who claim the Christian faith. It was eye-opening for me to go from

DC to working in the non-Christian workforce. I saw, more openly, the effects of life in a broken world, but it was so rewarding to help those in need when it was least expected. I had to choose to cling to my faith in Jesus on a daily basis.

My experience throughout the whole summer taught me how to rely only on God in all situations. I learned not to grasp the fleeting things of this world, which is often easy to do, in sometimes hopeless situations. Only the firm foundation of Jesus is capable of such a life-giving hope.

I learned the desperate need to be a light and share the gospel of the hope of Christ just by “walking in a manner worthy of God,” as Paul calls us to do in 1 Thessalonians 1:12, especially in the workplace. This experience radically grew my faith and changed my outlook on the world. I got to see and care for the physical needs of those I encountered, but I also got to care for them as a whole person. The building of my faith and reliance on God and His hope was an amazing result of the challenges and joys I experienced.



Hope's Kitchen

MOTHER & DAUGHTER
START A
SUCCESSFUL & DELICIOUS
BUSINESS
WHILE SHARING
THE HOPE
OF CHRIST.

Hope's Kitchen is a cupcake business run by Emma Morton '26 and her mom, Debra Morton. The two began making cupcakes together about two years ago, using a recipe passed down from Emma's grandmother. While Emma says she always admired the idea of baking, it wasn't until recently that she decided to go for it and found it was something she loved and had a knack for. (Editor's note: we agree!)

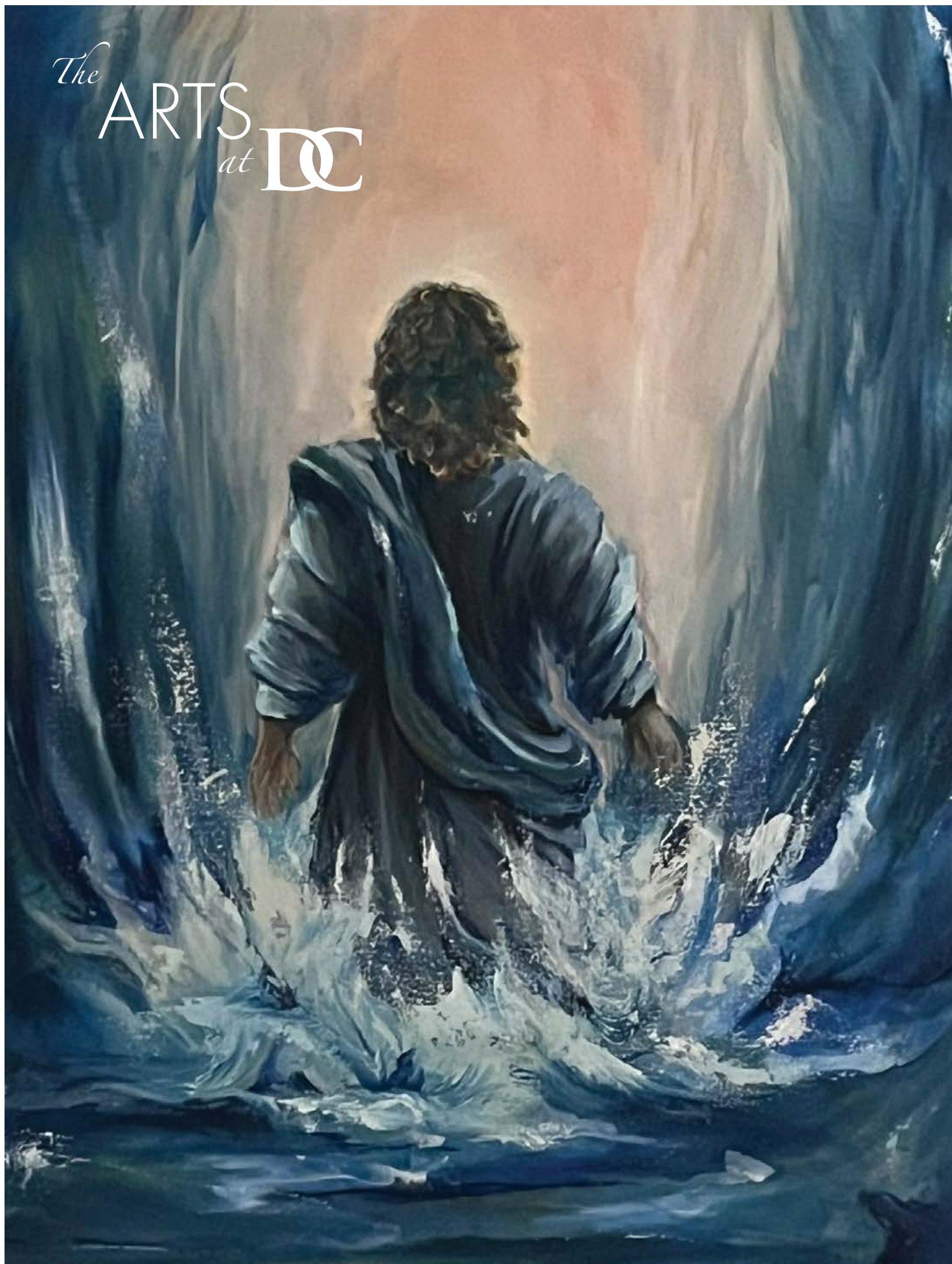
Emma primarily handles baking and developing flavors on the weekends, while Debra manages orders, customer service, and helps with cupcake decoration. Two years in, they have a rhythm of working together and most of the time it's a "give and take" of teaching each other new designs and recipes.

The name "Hope's Kitchen" not only reflects Emma's middle name, but also the hope her family had for her as a baby "without a good prognosis." Emma was born with Moebius syndrome, and her living testimony of an uncertain diagnosis, to running a business as a high school student while pursuing excellence in her academics, reveals a story that no one could predict years ago. When people hear her story, it's an opportunity for Emma to share her testimony and, ultimately, to share the powerful love of God.

These days, Emma is gradually taking over tasks related to the business side of things including marketing, budgeting, expenses, and customer communication. "It's been really cool to see her take on more and more of that, to see that this could be a business that she could take anywhere," says Debra. Both Emma and Debra mention the DC community as a large source of support and encouragement, giving Emma opportunities to experience running her business for different events on campus and beyond.

Emma plans to continue running Hope's Kitchen as she looks ahead to attending college in a few years. When asked what advice she would give to a student wanting to start a business, Emma says being passionate about what you're doing is of utmost importance because "if you don't like what you're doing, you're not going to keep up with it, and it's not going to grow." Another important thing to remember, especially with the influencer economy, is that growing a business "is going to take work; it doesn't happen overnight." Here at DC, we are confident Emma has the right recipe for success!

The
ARTS
at DC



STUDENTS SHINE AT LOCAL ART FESTIVAL

Upper School art students showed their work and volunteered at a local community art festival, A Bit of the Arts, led by art teacher, Elizabeth Steele Coats. DC students took home three of the five awards (granted by a jury of external artists), and four students received honorable mentions.

2nd place: Hugh Nicholson (*Family Gathering*—oil painting)

3rd place: Josh Videon (*Joker*—chalk pastels)

4th place: Addison Atkins (*Sunset*—chalk pastels)

Honorable mention: Elizabeth Matty, Karis Lo, Julia Metzger, Mariana Yaremenko



Hugh Nicholson, *Family Gathering*, Oil



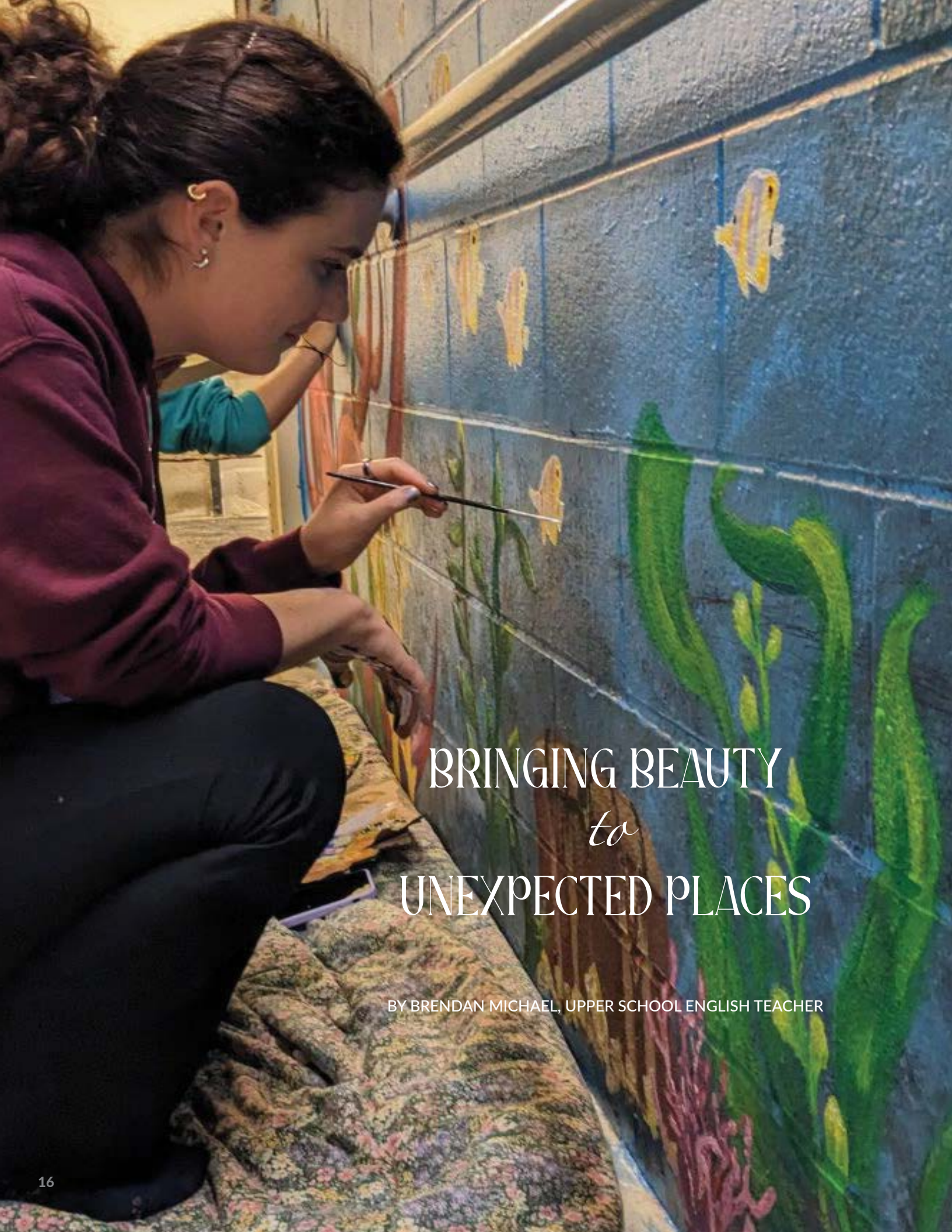
Addison Atkins, *Sunset*, Pastel



6th grade art students focused on observational drawing and drew from real specimens.



Abigail Postevka, Pencil drawing



BRINGING BEAUTY *to* UNEXPECTED PLACES

BY BRENDAN MICHAEL, UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

At Marple Gardens Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Broomall, there is a certain lower-level hallway that, too often forgotten, has now undergone a transformation.

**The once dank and weary corridor, crossed a hundred times a day by staff,
is now filled with a stunning splash of color—a sprawling, intricately designed mural
depicting a vibrant underwater scene that bursts to life with whimsical sea creatures.
The hall has become a place of beauty, one that turns the heart back to the Creator,
one that brings joy, hope, and the promise of renewal.
The artists? Our very own DC Upper School art students.**

The seeds of the Mural Project were sown last school year, when Bible teacher & Upper School Discipleship Coordinator Rob Irias took the short two-mile drive from DC to Marple Gardens in search of opportunities to serve. The longstanding relationship between the two neighboring organizations had (understandably) quieted during the pandemic. The center responded eagerly to Rob's inquiries, and thus the first service project was born: at the last assembly before Christmas Break 2022, the majority of the Upper School thronged a table in the gym to write and decorate uplifting Christmas cards to the Marple Garden residents.

Needless to say, the response from Marple Gardens was ecstatic; they immediately asked what else the students would be willing to do. Thanks to Rob's coordination and consistent leadership, DC initiated a regular bi-weekly trip after school to the center, where students could fellowship with and bless the residents.

The still-growing relationship with Marple Gardens, in which students are given organic and recurring opportunities to serve, is a shining example of Rob's larger hope and mission: creating a culture of gratitude and service in the Upper School community. As Rob himself put it, "serving will get you out of yourself; you're being the hands and feet of Jesus. With service, you're not just meeting tangible needs,

you're gratefully allowing the Lord to grow your faith. It's the age-old question: if our school was no longer here, would anyone miss us?"

Another opportunity for impact arrived when the center made a particular request of our students: could they bring some colorful art to their building, particularly in a spot that would bless the staff? For men and women who carry such a large burden, whose jobs are often daunting and emotionally draining, it could have real impact. A group of DC Upper School art students, spearheaded by seniors Sarah Mento and Luke Bradley (Arts Prefect) along with a dedicated arts cabinet, jumped at the chance and got to work designing and implementing a mural in the designated space. They were overseen and encouraged by beloved Upper School art teacher Liz Coats.

For Liz, the ongoing work on the mural has dovetailed beautifully with our school's current initiative in adopting Teaching for Transformation practices in the classroom. Liz's overarching 'Deep Hope' for her classes, that they are "Created to Create, to Witness & Worship," captures the heart of the project. "We are creating to beautify the world," said Liz. "But the hope is that the world sees God's hand in creation through that work. By beautifying the space our goal was to bless the workers who are pouring their hearts and souls into caring for these residents, and

then you hope that will trickle out into the people they're serving."

The Mural Project has been a beacon of light and hope not only to the Marple Gardens staff, but also to the students who have brought it to life. For senior Claire Liu, a consistent contributor to the mural, her most impactful memory of working on the mural was "the Marple Gardens staff who interacted with us when we were painting. They were really appreciative and friendly and that gave me a lot of encouragement." While the work itself has often been difficult, Claire remarked "seeing all of our efforts combined together was wonderful and made me want to keep going back."

Indeed, the students continue to return to Marple Gardens. The mural continues to grow, and each new sea creature elicits joyful praise and gratitude from the center's staff. They are getting to experience, through the hands of our students, a glimpse of God's redemptive story: that even in the midst of the world's brokenness, beauty breaks through ever stronger. God's work of healing the world is ever on the move, even in a little corner of a rehabilitation center, and DC's students have been invited into that story.

According to Liz, all the kids are ever asking now is: "when are we doing another mural?"

THREE OUTSTANDING VOCALISTS
SELECTED TO REPRESENT DC IN THE
PRESTIGIOUS PA DISTRICT CHOIR.



Pictured (L-R): Annika Callan '25, Soprano I (Ranked Top 10 in voice part), Claire Liu '24, Soprano I (Ranked Top 5 in voice part), Daniel Ho '25, Tenor II.

In a separate audition, Callan was also chosen as District Choir Piano Accompanist. All three students are part of DC's Concert Choir and Knight Tones, under the direction of Renee Bussey, Choir Director.



Knight Tones men sing the National Anthem at the 2023 Tip-Off Tournament. Pictured (L-R): DJ Swaner, Sam Robertson, Andrew Clouse, Noah Dutton

Twelfth NIGHT

The Upper School's Advanced Theatre Class performed an upbeat and semi-modernized version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, on November 9 & 10. The play, a comedy of mistaken identities, was met with abundant laughter at each performance in the DeMoss Center for Worship and the Arts. As part of this advanced course, students learn all aspects of a theatre production from directing, to costumes, to writing the contents for a playbill. The class is taught by Lori French, Upper School Theatre Teacher.



Noah Dutton as Sir Andrew Aguecheek; Claire Liu as Fool; Seth Nelaturi as Sir Toby Belch



Sadie Serfass as Maria

DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL THEATRE

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THE MUSICAL
COMEDY WHODUNIT

CURTAINS

*from the creators of
"Cabaret" & "Chicago"*

March 1, 2, 7, 8 @ 6:30 pm

March 9 @ 3:00 pm

DC

DELAWARE COUNTY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CHAMPIONS!





THE ROAD TO A TITLE

BY THOM HOUGHTON, UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

It was a singular sighting, indeed, yet one that faithful eyewitnesses in the DC community will relive in conversation for generations to come.

The date—Saturday, November 18, 2023—is now indelibly etched in DC lore. In a land nearly two hours distant, within the windy confines of Eagle View Middle School's soccer pitch, a group of young men mounted up with wings and soared like eagles, returning with a PIAA Boys A Soccer Championship secured in their talons.

"It has never happened before," remarked sophomore midfielder Jude Sacks. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Someone said it's like a World Cup to us. Medals, trophy, everything, it's just surreal."

Surreal indeed when one recounts the Knights' improbable path to their inaugural state title. Consider that the eventual PIAA champs were forced to endure a white-knuckled 1-0 District 1 semifinal against Calvary Christian on an overtime penalty kick before dropping a closely contested 3-2 District 1 final to perennial BAL power Faith Christian. Consider, too, that the resilient Knights managed to eke out a 4-3 victory over Kutztown on penalty kicks in the initial round of the state playoffs before dispatching of a one-loss Old Forge squad, 2-0, in the quarterfinals. Consider, finally, the Herculean effort exerted by this same never-say-die squad in a 2-1 semifinal win—on penalty kicks, no less—over the same Faith Christian team that had defeated DC on two prior occasions this season. Yes, surreal is the word.

Still, the title run remained incomplete. Next, came a rival unknown from western Pennsylvania in the form of the Charleroi Cougars, a team located thirty miles from Pittsburgh that had lost but one game the entire campaign. Upon avenging that solitary loss in the District 7 finals, the Cougars, hungry for their own shot at soccer preeminence, proved to be the final obstacle between a deep run and a state title for DC. Fittingly, unflappable senior keeper Jake Matthews would set

the tone for the decisive occasion, calmly swatting aside an almost certain goal from point-blank range at the seven-minute mark of the first half—a thwarted attempt that proved to be the opposition's best chance to score during the title fray.

Nearly ten minutes later, opportunity came knocking for the Knights near the Charleroi net, where yet another pair of seniors were quick to take advantage. On a deep foray into Cougars' territory, forward Griffin Schmitt's perfectly placed cross from the left wing set up the game's first and only goal as midfielder Cortez Cardone deftly headed the offering past the opposition's reeling goalkeeper, staking the Knights to what proved to be an insurmountable 1-0 lead.

What ensued during the following sixty-four minutes of play was a thing of beauty as the green and white executed a dazzling display of passing, dribbling, and tackling that left Charleroi exasperated and disoriented—all this masterminded by veteran head coach Rob Atkins, who had recently notched his one-hundredth career victory, and his two capable assistants, Nate Shackleton and John Levis. Throw in several additional near-scoring opportunities for good measure, and the Knights had all but virtually decapitated the scrappy Cougars by game's end.

"It's so hard to put into words," Cardone said. "We had an unbelievable season. It felt like a movie. We won in penalties the last games, that was so memorable, and we made history for our school. We're so happy."

"I am so proud of this group of young men and what they accomplished this year," Coach Atkins added. "They love each other and are grateful to God for the opportunity to play and compete together."

As for the what ifs, almosts, and what-could-have-beens, they've now been relegated to the ghosts of yesteryear, silenced for good on one windswept autumn afternoon on a pitch far away in central Pennsylvania.

COACH

ROB ATKINS

Southeast Pennsylvania
Coaches Association
Boys High School
Coach of the Year



VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

Head Coach: Rob Atkins

Assistant Coaches: Nate Shackleton, John Levis

Season Record: 19 - 3 - 2

Cortez Cardone All BAL - First Team
Cody Dill All BAL - First Team
Griffin Schmitt All BAL - First Team

Ben Norbury All BAL - Second Team
Matthew Levis All BAL - Second Team
Jude Sacks All BAL - Second Team

Cody Dill All Delco - First Team
Cortez Cardone All Delco - First Team
Ben Norbury All Delco - Second Team
Griffin Schmitt All Delco - Second Team

Judah Cooper All Delco - Honorable Mention
Matthew Levis All Delco - Honorable Mention
Jake Matthews All Delco - Honorable Mention
Jude Sacks All Delco - Honorable Mention
Cameron Vavala All Delco - Honorable Mention



NEW SCHOOL RECORD

CJ Simbiri '24, set a new school record in the triple jump on Saturday, December 9, at the Alvernia Invitational in Reading, PA. He placed first in the triple jump and third in the long jump, breaking the school record for triple jump at 47' 01."

Simbiri returns to indoor track this year after a stunning track season last spring, where he earned a 1st place medal as the PIAA AA Triple Jump Champion and also took home a 2nd place medal at the East Coast Track and Field Championships.

Earlier this fall, CJ Simbiri signed his National Letter of Intent for D1 school, Bucknell University.



CJ signs with Bucknell University, joined by his mother Rose, and his sister Abigail '18.



CJ Simbiri's new DC Record



DISTRICT ONE

PIAA DISTRICT ONE SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Delaware County Christian School received the distinction of earning the 2022 Sportsmanship Award as voted by the league member schools.

The PIAA and the District One committee was honored to present our school and Athletic Director with a commemorative banner, an engraved paperweight and a certificate of recognition from the PIAA Executive Director, at their Annual Fall Meeting on September 13, 2023. Congratulations to our Athletic Department.

NEW SPORTS PERFORMANCE CENTER

DC Athletics unveiled its new Sports Performance Center on the Upper Campus in November, a project made possible by generous donors. The training facility is part of the Athletic Department's initiative to encourage physical, mental, and spiritual well-being among students as well as faculty and staff. Outfitted with modern and multipurpose equipment, the performance center supports student athletes and coaches, emphasizing not only physical fitness and athletic skill advancement, but also mental fortitude and spiritual growth.

Robert Herrick, Strength & Conditioning Coach, says: "The new performance center allows our student-athletes to have not only more efficiency and variety in their training, but allows for the quality of workouts to improve exponentially. This allows anyone using the facility to more fully experience the holistic benefits of exercise—the physical health improvement, the mental health benefits, the building of community with those you train alongside, and the influence on spiritual life as we shepherd and steward the bodies the Lord has blessed us with. We have built DC's strength and conditioning program around the idea that strength and training are for everybody, and I am excited to see the ways in which this space makes the benefits of exercise more accessible to everybody and the community that is formed in this room."



// ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS 2023 //

VARSITY FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Lloyd Hill
Season Record: 5 - 2

AWARDS:

Sam Dixon
KSFL Offensive Co-MVP

Caleb Videon
KSFL First Team - Offense

Liam McKinley
KSFL First Team - Offense
KSFL Honorable Mention - Defense

Tommy Goneau
KSFL First Team - Defense
KSFL Honorable Mention - Offense

Jackson Lewis
KSFL First Team - Defense

Ian Pruessner
KSFL Honorable Mention - Defense

Seth Nelaturi
KSFL Honorable Mention - Defense

VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: George McFarland
BAL Coach of the Year - Boys

AWARDS:

Gabrielle Watson
All BAL - First Team
All District - First Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Ella Clipston
All BAL - First Team
All District - Second Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Andrew Clouse
All District - Second Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Alex Confino
All BAL - Second Team

VARSITY GOLF

Head Coach: Jack Mangene
Season Record: 10 - 2

AWARDS:

Porter Roberts
All BAL - First Team

Billy Sterious
All BAL - Second Team

James Connolly
All BAL - Second Team

Luke Yan
All BAL - Second Team

Alex Sterious
All BAL - Honorable Mention





Varsity Girls Soccer

Head Coach: Rob Irias
Season Record: 6 - 8 - 2

Awards:

Suzannah Green
All BAL - First Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Julia Evans
All BAL - First Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Kate Latchford
All BAL - First Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Kat Wolfe
All BAL - First Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Marielle Clayton
All BAL - Second Team

Ava White
All BAL - Second Team

Abby Gifford
All BAL - Second Team

Ella Irias
All BAL - Second Team

Varsity Girls Field Hockey

Head Coach: Jackie Daniel
Season Record: 8 - 8 - 1

Awards:

Alexa Cardone
All BAL - First Team
BAL Offensive Player of the Year
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Elizabeth Matty
All BAL - Second Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Maryn D'Antonio
All BAL - Second Team
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Leah Darnall
All BAL - Honorable Mention

Avery Franks
All Delco - Honorable Mention

Varsity Girls Tennis

Head Coach: Connor Power
BAL Coach of the Year
Season Record: 9 - 4

Awards:

Maggie Iott
All BAL - First Team Singles
BAL MVP

Maggie Iott, Sydney Stevens
All BAL - First Team Doubles

Lily Elliot
All BAL - Honorable Mention



DEDICATING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO THE LORD

At the start of each school year, new and returning families enjoy an evening of fellowship and worship together at the Dedication Picnic. This time is spent building new connections and committing the school year to the Lord through prayer, musical worship, scripture, and testimonies shared by new faculty.

Around CAMPUS





OPENING NEW DOORS TO LEARNING!

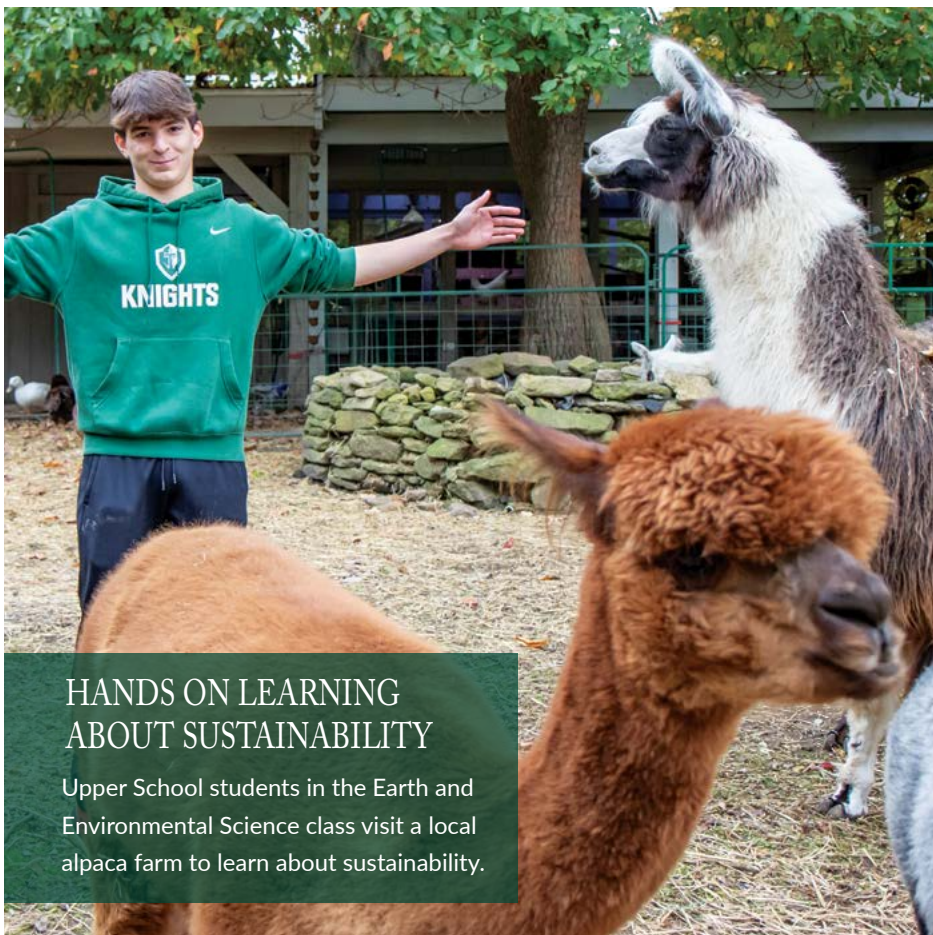
Outdoor education is an integral part of learning at DC. Students in PK2 all the way through 12th grade have opportunities to get outside and out of the four walls of their classroom. Whether scooping up tadpoles from the nearby pond, or conducting stream studies, the school grounds enable students to think deeply, work collaboratively, practice observation skills, and solve problems in a real world setting. Sometimes students get the chance to go on excursions to local parks and preserves such as Skunk Hollow and Waterloo Preserve.

Pictured (Clockwise L-R): Middle School students try their hand at orienteering under the guidance of Kevin McIntyre, Director of Outdoor Learning; Lower School students enjoy time outside exploring and drawing the colorful fall foliage.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Two members of the local Easttown Police Department visit with the PK3 class to answer questions, and are gifted with care packages put together by Lower School students who even got an inside look at the police vehicle!



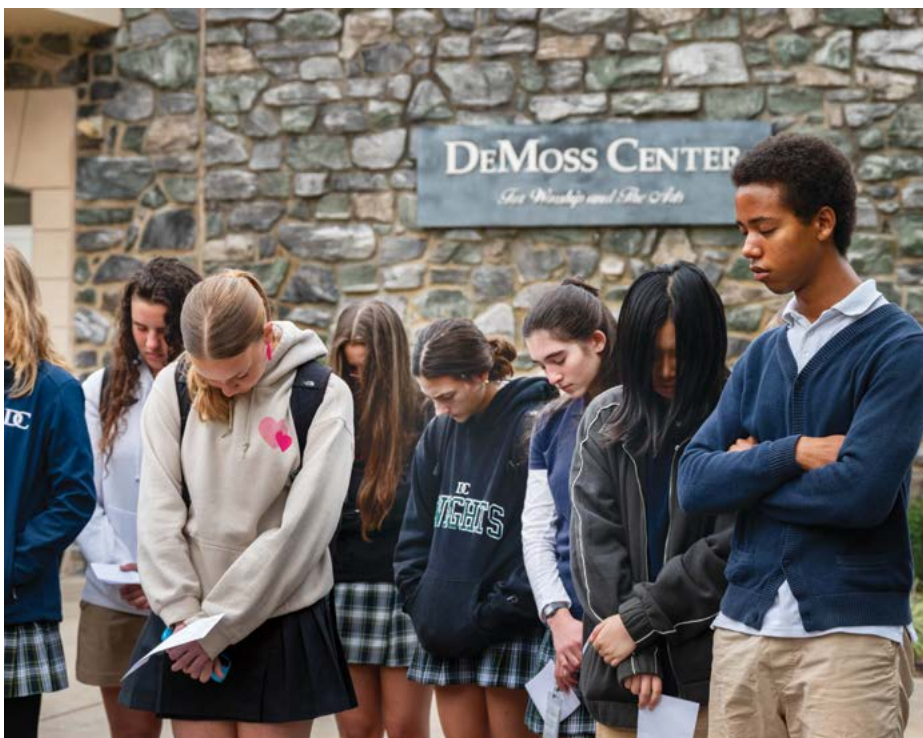
HANDS ON LEARNING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

Upper School students in the Earth and Environmental Science class visit a local alpaca farm to learn about sustainability.



A THIRD GRADE TRADITION

A thrill every year! Students grow, learn about and care for Monarchs from caterpillar to butterfly.



PRAYING TOGETHER

Upper School students gather for a morning of prayer around the DeMoss Circle to observe See You At the Pole, a global day of student prayer.



SHARING OUR CULTURES WITH ONE ANOTHER

The Multicultural Alliance holds a "Rep Your Roots" event during lunch once a month where students, faculty, or staff can share one piece of their culture from foods, to games, to artwork.



WE LOVE READING The Lower Campus held its first book fair, an event that encouraged our youngest readers in grades PK2-5!



A CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

1st grade completed a unit on a cherished book, *Charlotte's Web* with a special party including costumes, crafts and games.



The Center for Innovation launched a student business incubator as part of the business program here at DC. The program provides students with the opportunity to present a business idea each year and develop their entrepreneurial skills while bringing those ideas to life with their peers. It has started off as a significant success, with students developing innovative products and services while connecting with clients in and out of the DC community. The department also welcomed new faculty member, Mr. Jeremy Donovan, at the start of the 2023-24 school year to work specifically with student businesses.

The program focuses on exposing students to real-world challenges and coaching them to creatively problem solve with design thinking, and exhibit grit while they work for a redemptive impact in those challenges. These student businesses have already fostered a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship that is spreading into other areas of the school and community at large.

The Grounds, for example, is a student-run coffee shop that sources its beans from local vendors and donates a portion of its profits to charity. The Armory is a student-run school store that sells spirit wear and other products, with proceeds that have already paid off a \$20,000 loan that the students received to start the business. Spectral Video

Production is a student-run video production company that produces high-quality videos for clients inside and outside the school community. The Investment Fund is a student-run team that learns financial literacy and works to manage a diverse portfolio in the real markets.

These student businesses are a testament to the power of the young minds of DC to bring about innovative redemption in our world, and a shining example of the innovative culture that is alive and well at Delaware County Christian School.

HIVE

Lower School students in the HIVE this Christmas season used building materials, 3D printed hardware, and design thinking methodologies to create their own Christmas themed buildings.

ECC students were given candy canes and invited to tour the village with the older students, giving their candy canes as a vote to the house they liked the most.

—From the Director of the Center of Innovation,
Matthew DeFranza



SAIL

SCHOOLS FOR APPLIED
AND INNOVATIVE
LEARNING

During SAIL week, Upper and Middle School students have a chance to get outside of their normal classroom routines, and take courses in arts, humanities and entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Classes pictured from Fall 2023 SAIL week: Oil Painting, Competition Robotics, Cosmetic Chemistry, Radio Drama, Sewing and Fashion Design, Perspective Drawing, Shop Class as Soul Craft.

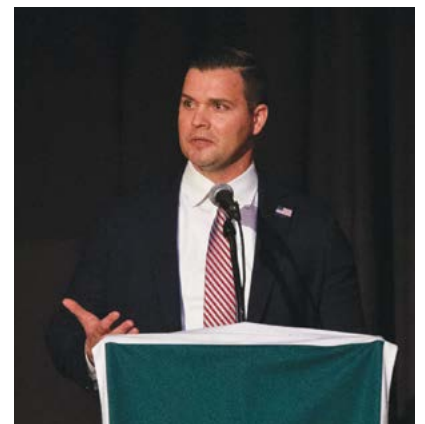


Philadelphia Military Academy Junior ROTC Color Guard presented colors.

Veterans Day Chapel took place on Friday, November 10 at DC's Upper Campus, and brought together both Middle and Upper School students, faculty, and staff to hear from speaker, Michael J. Lynch, MAJ, AV. Nineteen individuals were recognized for their service, including DC alumni, spouses, and friends of the school. Among those in attendance was Tom Little '80 who said, "It was such an honor to be invited back to DC and be recognized for my service in the United States Army. Being honored by my high school 43 years after graduation was a very emotional event for me. Even after the ceremony, about a dozen students came up to me during lunch to thank me for my service. Everyone really made me feel special!"



Tom Little '80 with George McFarland



Chapel Speaker, Michael J. Lynch



UPPER CAMPUS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER **GrandFriends Day**

GrandFriends Day is a cherished time at DC, when we welcome grandparents and special friends to each campus throughout the year to spend time with their students. GrandFriends enjoy a day meeting students' teachers and friends, having lunch together, and attending musical performances. In the fall, the Upper Campus and the ECC held their respective GrandFriends Days, and they were exciting and fun days for all involved. The Lower School will hold their GrandFriends Day on April 12, 2024.





2023

HOMECOMING



A Weekend of Connection & Celebration: Homecoming brings together so many parts of our wonderful community, from grandparents to alumni to current families. A time of celebration of what God has done and continues to do at DC is interwoven with recognizing our athletes both past and present, enjoying music and S'mores, a cheerleading clinic, and more! The Powderpuff football game is a highlight that kicks off the weekend festivities and includes concessions and local food trucks. Milestone reunion years are encouraged to come this weekend and to reconnect.

CHEER • CELEBRATE • CONNECT



Middle School and Upper School bands performed traditional and jazzy renditions of Christmas pieces, under the direction of Matthew Jones, Band Director.



PK2 - Kindergarten made a joyful noise at their Christmas chapels!



The 1st grade program was a hit with all who attended!



Parent Volunteers came together to bake and box hundreds of cookies to deliver to DC's friends and neighbors



2nd-4th graders performed the musical, *Let Earth Receive Her King*, written and directed by Diane Clark, Music Teacher and Band Director.



Head of School, Dan Steinfeld, gave the message "The Greatest Gift Ever Given" based on John 1.



Celebrating THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The joyful celebration of Christmas was seen and felt throughout each campus at DC, from the band and choral concerts, to the Lower School Christmas musical and the decoration of gingerbread houses. Students, parents, faculty, and staff enjoyed many moments of worship and festive fellowship together throughout December.



The Upper and Middle School choral concert, entitled *Born to be King*, was a beautiful celebration and blend of both modern and traditional Christmas music directed by Renee Bussey.

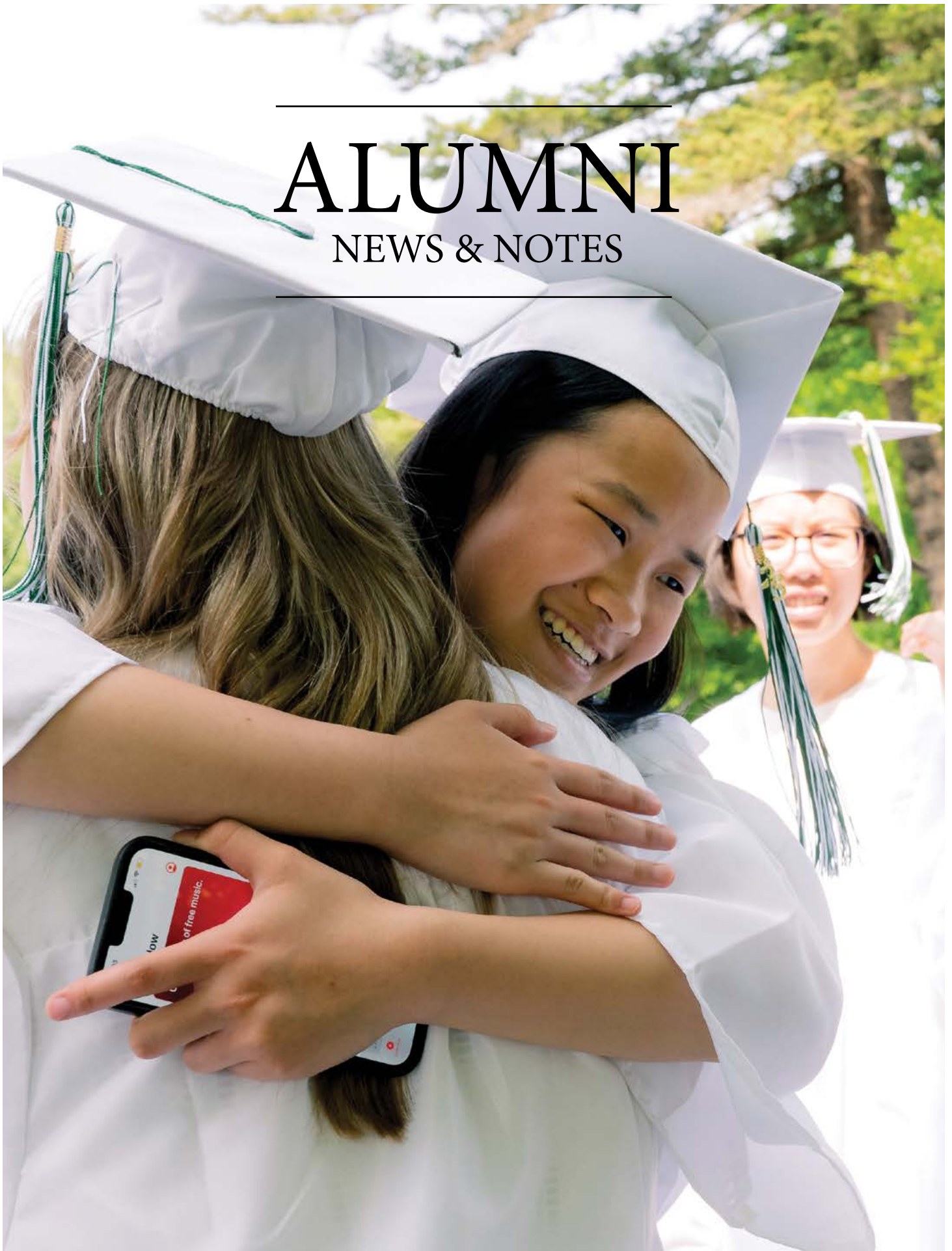


Students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni gathered for All School Christmas Chapel to worship together through scripture and song.



ALUMNI

NEWS & NOTES



2001

Scott Brookes '01

was awarded the Civilian Award by Upper Darby Township on May 3, 2023. Scott has served 17 years as a civilian technician in the Detective Division of the police department, where he is assigned to the Special Investigations Unit and assists in the day-to-day operations of the division. Scott resides in Upper Darby with his wife, Casey, and son, Bryson.



Photo courtesy of Delco Times

2007

David Peters '07

married Anniebel Sy Su on Thursday, April 27, 2023 in the Municipality of Tayug in the Province of Pangasinan, Philippines in St. Patrick of Ireland Parish Church.



2008

Jake Godino '08

and his wife Yasmine Shelton, welcomed their third child, Phoebe Autumn, on July 10. Phoebe joins older siblings Arielle (PK3) and Leonardo (PK4). Jake currently serves as the Director of Operations at DC.



2011

Jett Canavarro '11

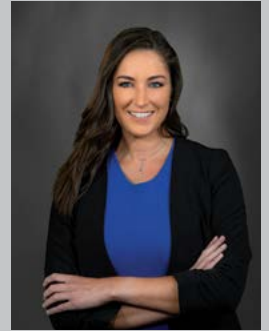
2023 was a great year of achievement for Jett, who is looking forward to finishing his master's degree by the end of 2024. He plans to receive his broker's license for real estate in PA when eligible. He enjoys staying in touch and meeting alumni and parents from DC.



2009

Jennifer Anusky '09

Jennifer's high school years were marked by "chaos" at home, but she says DC "believed in me and took the chance on me in a true act of God's mercy. If it was not for DC I would not be where I am today."



In the years since graduating from DC, Jennifer felt a calling on her heart, and believed God was asking her to help others in a bigger way. Her answer came when she had the opportunity to shadow a broker, completed her real estate licensing, and "hit the ground running." Jennifer is passionate about the work of guiding families through the homebuying process, the foundation of her work coming from the faith and ethics that she was taught at DC. Looking back, she is grateful for "the path God has laid" out for her, "inclusive of its trials and challenges."

In a fun turn of events, Jennifer was able to work with Mr. Jim Crane and his family through the process of selling their home as they prepare to move out of state. A former faculty member, Crane had a huge impact on her high school career both in physics class and on the tech team.

Jennifer loves the community and relationship-building aspects of working in real estate, and looks forward to the ways in which God will continue to open doors for her to connect with others, both within and without the community of DC, sharing her faith with her clients as they search for a place to call "home."

2012



Ailon Haileyesus '12

graduated from the University of Arkansas in 2016 with the Senior Honor Citation, honoring the top student in the graduating class equivalent to valedictorian. She received her master's from Johns Hopkins in Biomedical Engineering Innovation and Design, and traveled to over 15 countries during her college years with her strong passion for global health. In July, Ailon celebrated five years as an engineer on the R&D product development team at Stryker's Spine Division in Northern Virginia. She is also involved in an engineering doctorate program at Johns Hopkins University focusing on advanced additive manufacturing and materials for spinal applications. She was awarded The Early Career Alumni award from the University of Arkansas in 2022 as a testament to her professional and personal achievements. Ailon gives all glory to God for His constant guidance and faithfulness, and is always grateful for the academic and spiritual foundation she received during her 12 years as a student at DC. Ailon currently resides in Northern Virginia.

2012

Grace (Schaefer) Bennett '12

and her husband AJ joyfully welcomed their first child, daughter Annie Schaefer Bennett, on November 30, 2023. Annie weighed 7lbs, 2oz, and measured 20 inches. The family resides in Hershey, PA.



2016

Thomas Chung '16

married Emily Park on December 17, 2023 in Minneapolis, MN. Many alumni were in attendance to celebrate, including: Caleb Chung '19, Abby Chung '20, Emi Chung '22, Josh VanMeerbeke '16, Ben Chung '16, Kyle Winters '16, Davis Gibson '16, Ed Carrington '18, Emma Carrington '22, Ella Hines '22, Alison Levis '18, Cayley Serfass '20, and Ainsley Serfass '22.

2018

Danielle Strafford '18

graduated from Cornell University in the spring of 2023 with two bachelor's degrees from two of Cornell's undergraduate colleges with three minors. During her time at Cornell, she received eight scholarships and several distinguished awards, including a prize for best thesis at the nexus of religion and society and the Rhodes Scholarship, which is given to the top scholar in each of Cornell's undergraduate schools. Danielle showed her artwork in more than a dozen galleries and museums. She had the privilege of teaching classes to incarcerated students throughout her time of undergraduate studies and serving our nation via four internships at the US Department of Army and at the US Department of State. This past fall, she began her master's degree at Harvard University, where she received a merit scholarship for the duration of her studies. After graduation, she hopes to continue serving her nation and sharing the light of Christ overseas in all of the languages she has acquired during her studies (Hebrew, Arabic, and Spanish).



2018



Carly Moore '18 married Caele Manley on July 21, 2023, in Wayne, PA. Several DC alumni were part of their wedding day, including their day-of coordinator, Maya Neal Santana '16. Also in attendance: Madison Moore Hallstrom '15, Braedyn Thompson Lokos '18, Emma Chung '21, Chris Chung '18, Brody Veleber '18, Tim Fitzgerald '18, Danté Felice '18, and Rebecca Harris '19. The couple currently resides in Haleiwa, HI.

2018



Asha (Davis) Brownlee '18 married her college sweetheart, David Brownlee, on June 17, 2023 in Annapolis, MD. The day was captured beautifully by photographer Anna Beth Corson '16. Also in attendance was Tianti Good '19, who stood alongside Asha as a bridesmaid. The couple currently resides in Maryland.



Alumni Christmas Reception

Alumni gathered after All School Christmas Chapel on Wednesday, December 20, to reconnect with classmates and meet other alumni while celebrating the holiday. Classes represented in photo range from 1998 to 2023.

In Memorium



Stephen Douglas Bennett '67

Stephen Douglas Bennett '67 of West Chester, passed away on September 30, 2023. He was predeceased by his parents, John Bennett and Marion (née Beckley) Bennett as well as his younger brother James (Jim) Bennett. Stephen was a teacher for nearly 35 years in the Radnor School district and then worked as a Behavioral Consultant and Therapist for approximately 15 years after retiring from teaching. He continued to be an avid fan of classic rock music and enjoyed woodworking and oil painting in his spare time which he would then contribute to fundraising auctions and to historical venues such as Mount Vernon, VA. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Nancy Lee Sharpless Bennett, his two children: Douglas Bennett (Brittany (Attard) '09) of Exton, PA, and Jennifer Petrunak (Mark) of Elmer, NJ, grandson Augustus, as well as his stepson David Port (Kelly) and their children Madison and Spenser of Spring City, PA.



Natalie B. Kim '18

Natalie B. Kim '18 went home to be with the Lord on October 24, 2023. Natalie graduated from DC as the Salutatorian and went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry at Swarthmore College in Philadelphia. Natalie then attended and matriculated from University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine, a lifelong goal of hers. Two of Natalie's passions were music and animals. She served as co-concertmaster of the Delaware County Youth Orchestra, was the principal viola of the Swarthmore College Orchestra, and helped form the Chroma Quartet while at Swarthmore. Natalie cherished caring for animals, including four guinea pigs, and the family cockapoo. She interned at Radnor Veterinary Hospital, and later worked at Town & Country Veterinary Hospital in Media, PA. She was a Jesus-follower to the core, loving and befriending all, without judgment. There is a sticky note that is still attached to her bathroom mirror which reads, "The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 118:6). While Natalie is now at peace and fully healed in Jesus' arms, the pain of her absence will never subside and she will be missed by all those that knew her. Natalie is survived by her parents, David and Jane Kim; sister, Maggie Kim '20; grandmother, Happy Kang; grandparents, Chai and Alice Kim; Aunt Susan and Uncle Peter Moon; cousins, Ethan and Noah Moon.



Edward W. Diffin Jr.

Edward W. Diffin Jr. went to be with the Lord on December 8, 2023. Ed served as a member of the board at DC, and his children attended from Kindergarten through 12th grade. He was a long-time member of Grace Chapel in Havertown, and served on the deacon and elder boards and was active in the music ministry. With perfect pitch, Ed could always be counted on to call out the correct note if his kids needed help practicing piano. He took great comfort in Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Ed is survived by his children Ed '96, Erin '98, and Elizabeth '01, and their families.



Jonathan Vugteveen '80

Jonathan Vugteveen '80 went to be with the Lord on December 8, 2023 in Grand Rapids, MI. After graduating from DC, Jonathan attended classes at Calvin College, Calvin Seminary, and Kuyper College. The years he spent in church ministry brought about his most gratifying and productive work. Those mourning his passing are his wife, Tansley, and her son Ryan and daughter Hannah, Jon's mother, Marlene Vugteveen, his siblings Jane '81 and Bill Bradshaw, Chuck '83 and Linda Vugteveen, Eric '85 and Angelika Vugteveen, daughter Kassandra and son John and their families, his Aunt Joyce Vugteveen, Seven nieces and nephews as well as a number of great friends.

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1967



Pictured L-R: George (Bud) Cochran, Janet (JK) Williams, David Boorse, Carol (Webb) Bengé, Lucy (Bartkow) Malmberg, and Bill Pennington

The class of 1967 spent the weekend of August 4-6, 2023 in the beautiful countryside of Lancaster County enjoying time together, as they do frequently. Classmates perused old yearbooks and talked about various faculty and fellow students. An additional friend joined the group for lunch—Mr. David Boorse, a beloved health and biology teacher. A fun time was had by all, and the class hopes to gather again soon!

CLASS OF 1998



The class of 1998 held their 25th reunion on Saturday, November 25 in Exton, PA.

Back Row (L-R): Chris Tabakin, Pat Crawford, Bill Patton, Shakela Mills-Strawberry, Ashleigh (Hegedus) Rohm, Tom Withers, Tim Volikas

Front Row (L-R): Shannon (Sines) Swankoski, John Moberly

CLASS OF 2003



The class of 2003 held their 20th reunion on Saturday, November 11, in Audubon, PA.

Back Row (L-R): Mike Grenier, Nate Howell, Jonathan Shaeffer, Jason Ashworth, Tom Palmer, Jeremy Johnson, Jim Palmer, Dan McGowen, Paul Anthony, Emily Withers, Chuck Young (Jr.), Laura Bradbury, Kelly Jones

Front Row: (L-R): Andrew DiLorenzo, Aron Chernoff, Dave MacDonald, Desiree Hill Jenkins, Sarah Gallagher, Becky Palmer, Liz Coats

A photograph of a large, dark-stained wooden door set within a stone archway. The door has a traditional panel design with a central vertical panel and two side panels. It is adorned with brass hardware, including large hinges, a central knocker, and decorative studs. The surrounding stone wall is made of large, grey blocks. Small yellow flowers are visible in the bottom corners of the frame.

WHEN THE DOOR
OF OPPORTUNITY
OPENS
LET
FAITH AND HOPE
ENTER FIRST
WHEN YOUR
FAITH
LEADS
THE WAY
THEN
YOUR HEART
WILL FOLLOW

*“Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received
to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace
in its various forms.” - 1 Peter 4:10*

During the 2022-23 academic year, we focused our annual campaign on the theme of being the hands and feet of Jesus. In the verse above, Peter underscores the idea of stewardship. We are all endowed with various gifts and talents, and we are entrusted to use these gifts to serve others, which manifests God’s grace. This is a beautiful portrayal of being the hands and feet of Jesus as we channel God’s love and grace through our own personal offerings.

As you have already read in the pages of this issue, the work of Delaware County Christian School results in a life commitment to those who cross through our doors. The countless hours our faculty and staff commit to our students manifests in the success stories we see in our alumni, and create a ripple effect, influencing the communities where they live and work. The paths they walk and the services they provide are instrumental to sharing God’s grace. And all this happens because of the investment individuals and families commit of time and offerings to ensure a high-quality, Christian education for our young people.

This past year, we have witnessed the value of your investments in the lives of our students. Your offerings have enabled students to engage in authentic real-world challenges, face current issues, and develop the mental and physical tools to work towards a solution that impacts the communities and the world for Christ. Students have served both here and abroad, most recently in the Dominican Republic, working alongside medical teams to serve the children and families of that region. Our Middle School Robotics Team performed at the Robotics World Championship, and through your generosity, is now fully funded with new software that will enhance their opportunities this spring. Our annual spring musical received seven Cappie nominations, bringing home three awards. This March, students will perform in the newly renovated theatre, with further enhancements coming this summer. The upper level of the library is home to a new studio where students are producing podcasts and designing with advanced 3D printers. Our Lower School is now complete with the second story of The Orchard in place, housing the educational opportunities for our 1st and 2nd graders. These opportunities and offerings, coupled with so much more, make your investment worthy of our gratitude.

We know there are many wonderful organizations that you can support with your gifts and offerings. We believe Delaware County Christian School is worth your prayerful consideration, as we steward gifts well and value your investment.

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters during the 2022-23 school year. We will continue to give thanks for the gifts God has blessed you with and that you so graciously share with us.

With gratitude,



Allison B. Stinger
Director of Development

Your support of the
Fund for DC
is a gesture of
stewardship to the
portion of
God's Kingdom
right here at
Delaware County
Christian School.

WITH YOUR
PARTICIPATION
IN THE

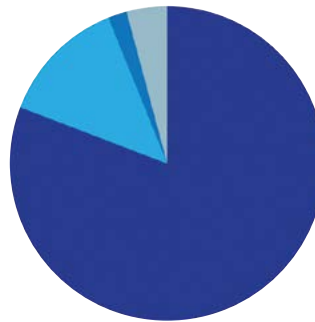
FUND *for* **DC**

WE CAN BETTER
SHARPEN THE MINDS AND
SHEPHERD THE HEARTS
OF THE NEXT GENERATION.

Delaware County Christian School commits to being a good steward of the generosity shared from members of our greater DC community. DC is blessed to present a strong statement of operations for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

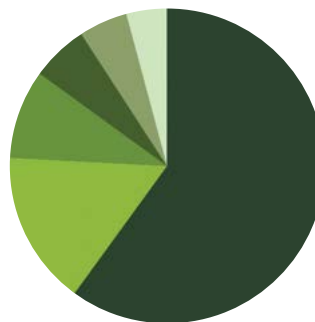
INCOME: \$15,618,936

EXPENSES: \$15,595,570



INCOME

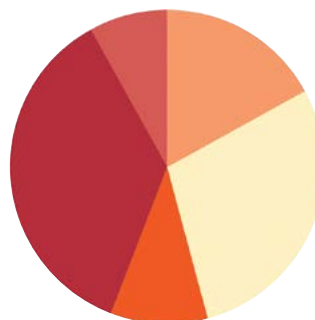
81% TUITION & FEES
13% UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS
2% OTHER INCOME
4% ENDOWMENT INCOME



EXPENSES

60% SALARIES & BENEFITS
16% FINANCIAL AID
9% MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL
6% EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
5% DEBT SERVICE
5% ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$4,666,220
RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS \$2,548,916
UNRESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS \$2,117,304



CONTRIBUTIONS

17% ANNUAL FUND FOR DC
29% EITC CONTRIBUTIONS
10% ENDOWMENT CONTRIBUTIONS
36% CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS
8% OTHER RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your support!

INTRODUCING THE DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Hall of Honor

Since its establishment in 1950, DC has supported the development of its students through academics, athletics, arts, and leadership. Our community, however, expands beyond the students and engages parents, alumni, faculty, staff, coaches, and community leaders in a holistic approach to building God's kingdom here on earth. In recognition of those who have come before us and continue to work alongside the institution, we are excited to introduce the Delaware County Christian School Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor will recognize and honor those who have made significant contributions to our beloved DC community.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Hall of Honor, please visit our website, www.dccs.org/hallofhonor, or use the QR code to complete the nomination form. Once your form has been received, someone will contact you with further information.



Nominations are now open!

THE GOLD CLUB

In its second year, the GOLD Club (Graduates of the Last Decade) invited the Class of 2023 to join with commitments, pledging support to the Fund for DC. We are pleased by the generosity of this class and welcome them as they join members of the Class of 2022 in the GOLD Club. Although this is a new program developed in 2022, we encourage graduates of the last ten years who may also want to become members to consider making a commitment in increments representative of their graduating year. Thank you to members of the Classes of 2022 and 2023 who made payments towards their pledges between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

CLASS OF 2022

Miss Emma Carrington
Miss Emily Chung
Miss Keturah Ferris
Miss Brette Foutch
Miss Molly Nichols
Miss Eowyn Oh
Miss Ainsley Serfass
Miss Allie Stevens
Mr. Tyler Toms

CLASS OF 2023

Miss Nelofar Asadi
Miss Sky Corcimiglia
Miss Maya Collins
Miss Corinne Creeden
Mr. Levi Dentel
Mr. Grantham Kane
Mr. Andrew Ko
Miss Rachel McEneaney
Miss Kaitlyn Pulliam
Miss Ava Schaafsma
Miss Sarah Stahl
Mr. Blake Tanis
Mr. Nicholas Vavala
Miss Candice Wang
Miss Ashley Zhou



What is EITC?

For many, the concept may be hard to believe. Is it really possible to redirect your PA State Tax dollars to Delaware County Christian School and impact the lives of students? Does the Commonwealth really allow this to happen?

Since 2001, Pennsylvania's EITC program has allowed businesses and individuals to lower their tax bills by donating to private schools, scholarship organizations, Pre-K programs, and other educational enrichment initiatives.

The bulk of the tax credits are reserved for donors who give to scholarship organizations that provide financial aid to children attending Pre-K-12 private schools.

For businesses and individuals who participate, it is an opportunity to receive up to a 90% tax credit.

This is a win-win not just for businesses and individuals but for students who are offered scholarships that give them an alternative to public schools. This program allows donors to know exactly where their tax dollars are being spent while receiving a generous tax credit, opening up doors to students for alternative educational opportunities.

If you would like more information about the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program email eitc@dccs.org.

Thank you to our 2022-23 Donors

Christopher and Colleen Barbee
Charles and Louise Carrington
John Caulfield
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Harry Clark, Clark Capital
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Robert and Valerie Wright
Russell Yost
Christopher and Meg Zaro
Matthew and Rebecca Zaro

EITC / OSTC PROGRAM

WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR PENNSYLVANIA TAXES TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM YOU BELIEVE IN?

Contributions made through the
EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT (EITC) OR
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TAX CREDIT (OSTC)
 provide financial assistance to qualified and mission-appropriate students to attend
 Delaware County Christian School.

TURNING PA TAX DOLLARS INTO SCHOLARSHIPS

"When we first heard about the EITC program and the opportunity it provides for so many families to afford Christian education at DC, we were thrilled to be able to participate. One of the school's greatest assets is the families in community with one another and we are glad to support any program that would lower the hurdle for a family looking to enroll their children at DC. The process was incredibly straightforward. We filled out a one-page form early in the year to enroll in the program. A few emails later and a mailed check at year-end, and we had done our part."

Timothy '02 and Cristina Hussar, with son Finley (3rd grade) and daughter Fern (K)



SAMPLE TAX CALCULATION

(LLC, PARTNERSHIP, S-CORP, OR INDIVIDUAL BASED ON A 2-YEAR COMMITMENT)

CASH GIFT TO CHARITY - \$3500

PA TAX-CREDIT REDUCTION (90% OF CONTRIBUTION) - \$3150

NET-FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTION (37% OF TAX RATE) - \$130

OUT OF
POCKET EXPENSE
\$220

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ALLISON STINGER, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
 eitc@dccs.org or (610) 353-6522 x 2284

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Becca Carr
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Katie DeLaRosa
Heather DiCanzio
Allie Eisel
Jamie Heckman
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% Eric and Rachel Green

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AOS Architects

W.S. Cumby

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Damon and Lynn Swaner and Family

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EVENT SPONSOR

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5K

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RIZE: Elevation Pizza

Auxilio Partners % Mark Schreiber Family

Shearon Environmental

Brian and Trish Tuttle

G&C Foods

BRONZE SPONSORS

Hotworx % Jen Luft and Family



LOWER CAMPUS STUDENTS AWARDED POPSICLE PARTY

There was indeed Madness in the Advancement and Business Offices last March as we kicked off the first annual March Madness Competition to raise funds, increase participation, and build awareness of the value of the Fund for DC. As gifts rolled in online, so did hundreds and hundreds of coins from the Lower Campus. And it all paid off. The campaign began with sixteen teams and over four weeks of competitive participation, the final match came down between the students of the Lower Campus and the 2000s Alumni. With a little late-game help from their teachers and parents (whose teams had already been knocked out), the Lower Campus student body came out victorious. To celebrate their success, the Advancement Office hosted a popsicle party in which great joy and lots of smiles abounded. We would like to thank those who participated in the success of this endeavor. It was a lot of fun to see the excitement from generations of our DC community and to work together to support the school. Watch for information on this year's tournament.



COMING MARCH 2024!



TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

Applebrook Golf Club | Malvern, Pennsylvania

PROCEEDS BENEFIT DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE *the* DATE

DC

DINNER
&
BENEFIT

4.27.2024

GABRIELLE WATSON

Class of 2024

"DC HAS MOLDED AND STRENGTHENED MY WALK WITH THE LORD, SHOWING ME HOW TO WALK A PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

THIS WALK HAS LED ME DOWN A PATH OF SERVANTHOOD, UTILIZING MY GIFTS TO SERVE OTHER YOUTH.

I PRAY THE LESSONS LEARNED WILL ENABLE ME TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITIES WHERE I LIVE AND SERVE."





SPRING

open house

LOWER CAMPUS
APRIL 9 2024

9am-11am

UPPER CAMPUS
APRIL 16 2024

9am-11am

Nominate the 2024 Alumnus of the Year!

Each year, we honor one of our own as DC Alumnus of the Year. This award is designed to highlight the work of our alumni across the globe as they live out DC's mission to educate students who will serve God and impact the world through biblical thought and action.

To nominate a candidate, please complete the form by using the QR code below or visiting dcs.org/alumni/alum-of-the-year-honors/nomination.

Please submit your nominations by April 30, 2024.

The 2024 Alumnus of the Year will be recognized during Homecoming festivities in October.



2021-2022 WINNER
Main Line Parent Award
BEST DAY CAMP



EXCEL ENRICHMENT

AGES 6-14

KNIGHTS SPORT ACADEMY

AGES 8-12

DAY CAMP

AGES 3-14

**CAMPS RUN WEEKLY:
JUNE 17-AUG 2, 2024**

**DEVON, PA
484-654-2425**

DCCS.ORG/SUMMER





DELAWARE COUNTY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

UPPER CAMPUS
462 Malin Road
Newtown Square, PA 19073

LOWER CAMPUS
905 S. Waterloo Road
Devon, PA 19333

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROOMALL, PA
19008
PERMIT #25

Save the Dates

DC THEATRE: CURTAINS!
March 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9

ALL SCHOOL EASTER CHAPEL
March 22

LOWER CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE
April 9

UPPER CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE
April 16

THE BENEFIT FOR DC
April 27

COMMENCEMENT 2024
May 31

THE DC GOLF CLASSIC
June 11

DC SUMMER PROGRAMS
June 17 - August 2

